



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
January 2021  
[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)



## Mary Ellen Vetter Honored



Mary Ellen Vetter has been named as one of AARP and Pollen's Minnesota "50 Over 50" list for her community service.

"50 Over 50 is a way to not only break down outdated beliefs about aging but build better connected communities as well. This list will recognize and celebrate the contributions being made by the 50+ community all across the state of Minnesota," said Will Phillips, state director of AARP Minnesota, in a press release. The 50 honorees are chosen in five categories: nonprofit, arts, business, community and disruption. (To view the entire list of honorees, head to [50over50.org](http://50over50.org))

Mary Ellen, our membership chair, member of the Scholarship Committee and a longtime resident of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, continues to volunteer into her mid-90s, serving on the BOD of her own Townhouse Association. In addition, for more than 25 years, she's been a weekly volunteer at North Side Life Care Center in Minneapolis.

But Mary Ellen has given back mostly in the environmental science and conservation fields. From 2000-2017 she served on the BOD of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, which has developed a nature area into the acclaimed Osprey Wilds Residential Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone. She currently serves on the Osprey Wilds Charter School Committee which authorizes 30+ Charter Schools in MN. Four of the schools are in Brooklyn Park.

From 1970-1980 she chaired the Brooklyn Center Conservation Commission, which designated 300+ acre Palmer Lake Environmental Area as permanent open space.

In 1980-2010 she was on the BOD of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis which established the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program known nationwide and served as Co-Chair of the Program.

In the 1990's she was President of the Brooklyn Historical Society, which published the acclaimed history book *The Brooklyns* in 2000.

"The world needs more Mary Ellens," wrote Diane Sannes, the volunteer who nominated Vetter. "Her vision and hard work as a volunteer made a huge lasting mark on our environment for generations to follow," said Sannes.

Mary Ellen modestly says:

"I have had the delight and privilege to work with so many great friends who put in their time and talent to develop and enhance our community. The Chair merely calls the meeting to order."

# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting December 9, 2020

Zoom meeting.

Members present: Steve Schaust, Tim Johnson, Barb Franklin, Dick Brown, Wendy Steele, Jerry Steele, Karen Osteno, Jim Arnold, Joe Klohs and Larry Kennebeck.

**In person meetings** remained curtailed due to Covid-19.

May Pancake breakfast still in doubt.

Barb is emailing out Zoom meeting notices for the programs sponsored by other chapters or the Minnesota Ikes Division

**New membership committee:** Jerry, Steve and Mary Ellen Vetter

Recommendation by Joe: We should ask Brooklyn Park director of Recreation and Parks to speak and give a status update to residents on the Survey & Assessment of the Mississippi River, possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in February. The City could help invite the stakeholders to this virtual meeting (Zoom) and our involvement may attract new members. Joe will contact Jodie

**Karen recommended** making personal connections/phone calls, to our members to update them on our ongoing conservation work and plans for the future.

**Jim Arnold presented treasurer's report** indicating our financial position is still solid. Donations continue but our rental and silent auction income has been lost due to the pandemic.

**The deer hunt on Banfill Island** is over for the year. Joe, Steve and Dennis Leslie will follow up to negotiate with new criteria for next year.

**Chapter grounds:** Brad donated some treated lumber for future projects which Tim has stacked and covered.

**Oxbow Creek pollinator prairie** project update: Dick presented some options to establish an oak savanna there. He will try to set up a meeting with the Park Commissioner in Champlin Park (Charlie Lane). Steve and Tim volunteered to take part.

**Deadline for *Timberlines*** articles has been changed back to last day of the month.

**Discussion for Wes Hendrickson memorial** – no decision yet – project won't start until spring 2021.

**City of Brooklyn Park** is looking for an Advisory Committee for Watershed on Shingle Creek or West Mississippi. Open commissioner position. Appointment is made by the city, looking for interested representatives.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

## Migratory Bird Research in Honduras in a Coffee Production Landscape

Zoom Meeting sponsored by Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Tuesday, January 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Migratory birds connect the world by linking the geographies they need for each component of their life cycle. Of these phases, the non-breeding season may be a limiting period for migratory bird populations which are experiencing marked declines. Fabiola Rodríguez-Vásquez is a Honduran biologist, currently a PhD candidate at Tulane University studying Wilson's Warblers and Wood Thrush in a coffee production landscape of Yoro where she collaborates with dedicated local researchers and members of the community.

Please [register](#) in advance.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bQ87w4cpSi6gqDPqUCGmVg?fbclid=IwAR3pHrMAUkAM8e8ldbpr8\\_GVNB6DMmvF2pLVZZaHB8teuXEW4LpTPN7Er34](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bQ87w4cpSi6gqDPqUCGmVg?fbclid=IwAR3pHrMAUkAM8e8ldbpr8_GVNB6DMmvF2pLVZZaHB8teuXEW4LpTPN7Er34)

# Opening up our Wildlife Management Areas to ATVs



The State of Minnesota's 1,500 or so Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) have been closed to motorized traffic for the most part. But a new law signed by Gov. Walz last summer requires the commissioner of the Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) to report back by February 15, 2021 on recommendations and draft legislative language designed to increase access to WMAs for the public...including opportunities for persons with disabilities to use motorized vehicles...

A Federal rule that took effect under the Obama administration specified the "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by "individuals with mobility disabilities." See some [basic facts](#) on those rules at the American Trails website.

"Eight million people nationwide who have mobility limitations use wheelchairs, canes, crutches, etc. Close to 20 million people have a mobility related disability but don't use wheelchairs, canes, and so forth. However, they still have mobility disabilities that limit the

distance they can walk due to heart or breathing disorders, amputations, joint or muscle related disabilities."

The DNR is soliciting public comments on their website's [Wildlife Management Area Accessibility Public Input Survey](#) through Friday, Jan 22. Hurry if you want to comment!

Longtime Ike, Willis Mattison, has communicated his concern that "this same argument for the disabled was used to justify ATV trails through our State Forests. That argument succeeded so well that now they are taking on the WMA's too...Seems the DNR has put the whole state up for sale to the motorized sport industry and is using every ploy in the book to get it done."

He goes on, "The conundrum is, this does put us all in the unenviable position of appearing to oppose access for the disabled, which we, of course do not and have never.

As we now watch DNR Parks and Trails partner with the Mn4WD Assn and the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) (a misnomer if we ever heard it) we see state wide plans for OHV routes and trails everywhere that are chilling in their boldness and potential for harm.

With a pot of gold to fund them from diverted highway gas tax revenue, this coalition is hell-bent on making Minnesota the gold standard for off-highway recreation. They know no limits and won't unless we, as true "conservation groups" strongly question how much is too much and their means to get there. If our forests, lakes, streams and wetlands were in great shape with ample reserves of resilience, then expansion of motorized access to reasonable degrees might win the day. But that is most assuredly not where our natural resources are."

*Reported by Tim Johnson*

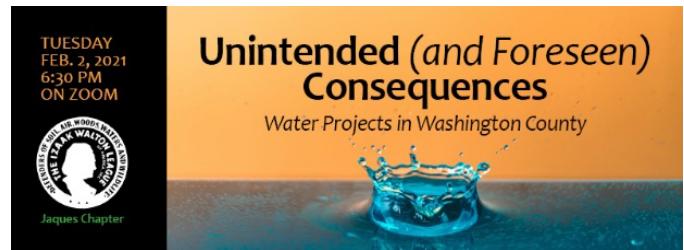
## **Comment On Handicapped Access Of WMA's**

I feel for people with disabilities having become one myself due to age and arthritis. However, mechanized wheelchairs call for paved trails and ATV's call for widening paths that now are used for foot access. We disabled people should not expect natural areas to be altered because of our plight in WMA's or in SNA's.

My idea of WMA's is to manage wildlife for native natural diversity and better reproduction of the species. ATV's make noise, may cause other destruction such partially blazing their own trails.

There are many places that have paved trails such as city parks, county parks, state parks and national parks that give the disabled and others a chance to see scenery and watch many forms of wildlife. I am not in favor of altering the terrain just so I and certain others can have access that may spoil natural amenities. Mechanized units should not have access everywhere.

*Dick Brown*



*Featuring Rebecca Higgins and Don Arnosti*

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 PM

A FREE virtual event open to the public

Like other parts of Minnesota, Washington County has experienced both unintended and often foreseen consequences with water projects. Join us virtually on **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM** to learn more about two examples in this area with real and potentially troubled outcomes that threaten our water.

**Featured guests** and their topics include:

**Rebecca Higgins PG, Hydrologist, East Metro Unit of the MPCA** 3M PFAS Settlement – Investigating Pollutants in the Project 1007 Area (Washington County)

**Don Arnosti, Conservation Leader**

Proposed Tamarack Mine project and its potential effects on the Kettle River

The event includes presentations by both speakers with plenty of time to get your questions answered.

### **HOW TO JOIN THE EVENT:**

Join us on Zoom at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 2:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5777543510?pwd=SGZhcxFWbCt3c09EcU04UWhRdWtpZz09>

Presented by the Izaak Walton League of America, Jaques Chapter. Learn more about the chapter here

(<https://minnesotaiakes.org/chapters/Jaques.html>).

Questions? Contact Howard Markus at [howlyn11@gmail.com](mailto:howlyn11@gmail.com)

**Interested in wildlife and the outdoors?  
Please Join Us!  
IWLA Breckenridge Chapter Membership Application:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are subject to change. Please make check payable to: IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter Membership

Dues: Individual: 71.50 Family: 99.00 Student: 43.00

Mail to:

Mary Ellen Vetter  
7715 York Lane N  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
Phone: 763-561-1761

**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)



**Izaak Walton League of America  
Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm (CT)  
Presenter – Angie Hong**

**Zoom Program**

**Click on Link at 6:00pm (CT) to Join Zoom Meeting**

**Link → <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81084580071> ← Link**

**Meeting ID: 810 8458 0071**

**Dial-In: 312-626-6799**

## **Butterflies, Bees, Pollinators, and Prairies – Oh My!**

**Angie Hong** is the coordinator for Minnesota's East Metro Water Resource Education Program, a local government partnership with 25 members.



**Rusty Patched Bumble Bee**  
*(Bombus affinis)*



*Izaak Walton League of America - Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife*

## St. Anthony Falls Development

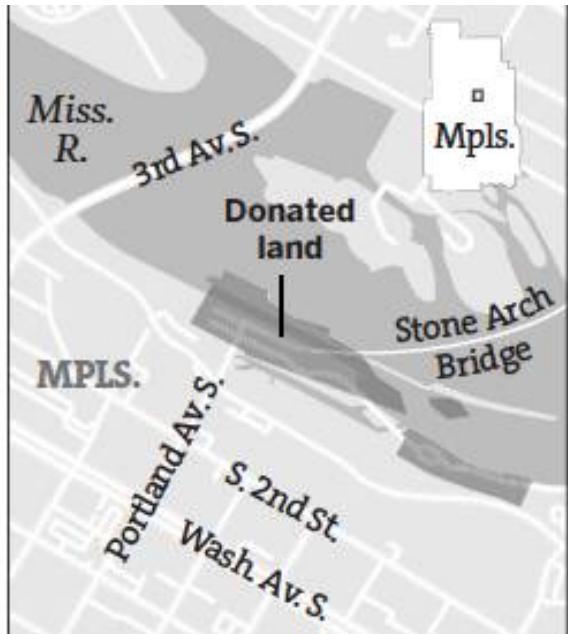
Federal officials will soon give the city of Minneapolis about 3 acres of riverfront from under the Stone Arch Bridge to just above St. Anthony Falls. The lock and dam have been closed to navigation since 2015 but are still the responsibility of the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control.

Friends of the Falls, a community group focused on expanding public access to the river, is working with the city and the Native American Community Development Institute to design a plan for what to put on the land. Some meetings have already occurred. The area is historically significant because of its cultural and spiritual importance to the Dakota; and because early immigrants settled there. Indigenous groups will be involved in the planning as well as others interested in the eventual use of the land.

It is seen as an opportunity for increased public access to the river. Inasmuch as I have been following the evolution of plans for the Upper Harbor Terminal, some of the issues seem similar. The Upper Harbor Terminal is a much larger project, involving not only river access, but commercial and residential development, and it has been under discussion for more than 10 years. I assume the lock and dam area can come to fruition much more quickly.

Certainly there will be a chance to make opinions known, so I hope some of us have input to what happens to the river relatively close to our chapter house!

*Karen Ostenso*



**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](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.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. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.

## **Opinion: Arctic Refuge**

*(Also sent to Star Tribune)*

Not only has President Trump done terrific damage to natural entities in the lower United States during his term, but now he is encouraging horrendous damage to our country's Crown Jewel Wilderness.

His term will go down in infamy for several reasons. But auctioning off our nation's most prime example of an untouched ecosystem will be remembered most by many Americans. It will set a poor example to other nations struggling to conserve their natural heritage. It is easy to see how conservationists, environmentalists and natural heritage preservationists were a determining factor in voting against his second term. We hope President Biden will find a legal way to undo the environmental damages done by the Trump regime and make it permanent.

*Dick Brown*