



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
January 2020

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2020

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Holiday Party 4-7 pm
Program –Siah St. Clair –
A Photographer's Wildlife Stories and
Adventures
- 25 State Division Winter Meeting – REI
(Bloomington)
- 28 No meeting

FEBRUARY 2020

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

MARCH 2020

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Education meeting 7:30 pm
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

Kicking Off the 2020-21 Scholarship Program

The Breckenridge Chapter will soon send 2020-21 scholarship application materials to local schools and post the application on our web site. This will be the twenty-second year our chapter has made scholarships available to high school seniors and/or current college undergraduates. You may recall that last year the amount of the scholarships was raised to \$600. Scholarship recipients may continue to reapply for up to four years. Thus far ninety scholarships totaling \$45,400 have been awarded to local students with a strong interest in, and a commitment to, environmental causes.

Last month the Chapter received large donations to the Chapter's Scholarship Endowment Fund from Tom and Marilyn Breckenridge, John Breckenridge, Larry Swanson and Mary Ellen Vetter. As treasurer, John initiated the scholarship program and the endowment program that funds it. It was a contribution from the estate of Larry's mother Irene that started the scholarship endowment. The Breckenridge family and others soon followed with other generous contributions. The generosity of the folks listed above has helped the endowment to continue growing. Other members have helped the endowment grow through silent auction involvement as well as monetary contributions.

If you would like more information about the Chapter's scholarship program, or would like to learn how you can make a contribution to the endowment, please contact one of the scholarship committee members: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Mary Ellen Vetter.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes January 14, 2020

A quorum was present: Steve, Barb, Karen, Tim, Larry, Joe and Dick attended.

Meeting was called to order with recitation of the Ike's member pledge: *To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to our sharing in it.*

Holiday Party/Silent Auction set-up is scheduled for Saturday morning at 9:30. Joe will let our caterer know how many guests to serve. Desserts will be pot-luck. Larry volunteered to be at the table by the door collecting money and Joe will help.

Dick announced that our April 28th meeting speaker will be Peter Sorenson speaking on invasive species.

Steve announced that the State Division winter meeting will be held Jan 25 at REI in Bloomington. Also, the spring meeting will be April 18 in Duluth. Steve updated the board on progress with new strategic planning at the Minnesota Division level.

Joe announced that the City of Brooklyn Park is seeking input from us on their natural resources plan. This needs to be scheduled within the next month. We should have a separate meeting ourselves in advance. Joe will contact the City about scheduling.

A discussion on membership recruitment was had. Joe was in favor of creating a sub-committee on membership to work with Mary Ellen. Dick said we should ask Mary Ellen for an updated membership list at the end of February when most renewals are in. Joe suggested using some of the national IWLA recruitment materials. Steve will research what's available from National. Barb will make sure only our updated brochures are on the counter. She will also update our Board of Directors list on the website.

Tim and Barb updated members on the work to update our website, making it secure and easier to update. This includes a change in vendors.

Steve updated the Board on destruction of important wildlife habitat in Texas that the Trump border wall is causing.

Dick shared information on the restoration of the dam on Cross Lake to restore the lake levels (this is a 50 year old man-made lake). Concern is with using natural resource money to benefit land owners boat docks, not the habitat. It is too late now to stop the project.

Karen wondered if we can get a speaker to talk about the proposed St. Anthony Falls riverside wishbone walkway and its impact on wildlife habitat.

Barb says she has enough copy for this month's *Timberlines*.

Rentals are going well, income up 15% per John's treasurer's report.

Building and Grounds:

- Joe updated us on the bathroom update committee's work. The first two weeks of March will be blocked out from rentals to get the work done. Joe has arranged the tear down crew.
- Jim is coordinating an assessment of our property by John Moriarty for February to contribute to an ecological management plan.
- Steve is designing a more elaborate mailbox stand.
- The dying green ash tree needs to be taken down. Tom Reid will do it in the spring or summer.
- Our buckthorn study seeds will be planted in the woods once the snow melts.
- Joe will build an antifreeze bucket trap to control mice.

Jim presented the Scholarship committee's report. The scholarship endowment received several contributions that have raised it to the highest level yet. Our return on the conservative investment strategy we have is just about matching inflation. A discussion on suggestions by member Dell Erickson to improve the Chapter's administration of scholarships was had. Jim was not optimistic that we could recruit more members to sit on the committee.

Our Treasurer officer position is still open. We need to ask again for a member to step up and take over the responsibility from John Fraley.

The meeting was adjourned just after 9 pm.

Update on Our Current Scholarship Recipients

Our current outstanding scholarship recipients had a busy fall semester. Here's the latest:

Katie Breuuckman, a graduate of Andover High School, is finishing her senior year at the University of St. Thomas. She writes that she had a fantastic final fall semester. "I finished up my fall semester with a successful senior cross country season and with the completion of my most difficult chemistry class to date, inorganic chemistry! I performed academic research on the topic of mutagenesis of antibiotic resistant bacteria found in apple orchard soil and enjoyed learning new lab techniques relating to health and the environment.

I enjoyed running along the Mississippi River this fall as I watched the leaves change and eventually fall. I have also been creating a Nordic ski team club at St. Thomas. I was ecstatic to receive our first snowfall so soon and was fortunate enough to ski with friends and teammates as well! I hope to continue to build the Nordic ski community at St. Thomas and connect our college with the other local colleges in the Midwest to continue the culture of Nordic skiing that I have missed since high school."

David Hainlen, a junior at North Dakota State and a graduate of Osseo High School said that classes went very well for him fall semester. He was able to take a lot of fun classes, including one on proper tree climbing and rigging techniques. "I also was able to conduct research on how tree defoliation rates differed between trees in rural and urban environments. My independent research project, 'How mycorrhizal fungi affect the growth rate of carnivorous sundews' is coming along nicely, and I was able to get out to Lake Bemidji State Park to collect some sundew specimens earlier this year! This upcoming semester should be another fun one! I will be presenting on carnivorous plants during NDSU's Darwin Days again, from February 27th-28th, and I will (hopefully) be presenting my independent research findings during NDSU's explore poster session!"

Mary Thelan, a graduate of Anoka High School currently studying at St Thomas writes, "Well, fall

semester sure flew by fast! I am still working as a research assistant in one of the biology labs at St. Thomas. I recently finalized what my independent research project will be this coming summer. I will be studying how rising lake temperatures affect walleye feeding patterns.

I am also getting ready to leave in early January for a biology class in Costa Rica. I will be there for 4 weeks doing various research projects. I am super excited to see all the beautiful wildlife there!"

Willa Nagel, a freshman at the University of Minnesota and a graduate of Red Wing High School, informs us that "This semester has introduced me to an exciting world of soil science and plant propagation. I was hired to work in the soils lab for a graduate student who is studying the use of human waste as fertilizer. In plant propagation, I have learned to take stem, root, and shoot cuttings as well as manipulating growth through plant hormones.

Over the break, I have traveled with my family to the North Shore and am training for the February Birkebeiner. Thank you for your contribution to my first semester at the University of Minnesota as I work toward my major in Conservation Management."

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)

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter

Holiday Party

Sunday, January 19, 2020

\$20 suggested donation

Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund

4 p.m. – Social Hour

Silent Auction

Hors d'oeuvres

5 p.m. – Dinner

This year the dinner will be catered by

Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering

Bring desserts to share!

6 p.m. – Program

Siah St. Clair:

A Photographer's

Wildlife Stories and Adventures

Please RSVP to
Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)

or

763-657-1907

Everyone Welcome!

Opinion: A Series of Ironics

DOES IT SEEM IRONIC, as oil and gas will become eventually scarce, harder and more destructive to extract, that we ship much abroad for the benefit of some to profit?

That some scientists are trying to discover other planets with similar conditions as Earth so we can evacuate people from our overpopulated planet to keep from overcrowding and starvation, instead of using such effort and resources to improve our own planet?

As we fight copper-nickel mining in NE Minnesota, that we advocate wind generators that use tons of copper and other metals in their manufacture and installation?

Also, that solar requires aluminum and copper like mining of silicone sand in environmentally areas and takes up vast acreage of areas for crops and wildlife?

That we spend millions to increase the abundance of certain species of wildlife, and then kill them for sport?

That we spend millions for native species' habitat, yet many persons don't care about wildlife or its surroundings?

That by artificially fertilizing the soil for crop raising, we disturb vast areas by mining for potash and phosphorus and the resulting runoff pollutes waterways?

That persons are able to travel to the best and worst parts of the Earth, return and report such conditions there to others, but no one is able or allowed to go to Heaven or Hell and come back to report on conditions there; yet believe what no one has seen?

That as scientists have said "our nation's overabundant population makes us no longer sustainable for the far distant future" yet we continue to allow immigration?

That we have benevolently and righteously created the Endangered Species Act, yet there are those who connive to weaken or destroy it?

That most religions maintain mankind are "stewards of the Earth", yet many fight against population control, knowing full well overpopulation is the prime enemy of sound stewardship of the total "creation"?

That our government spends millions to create and maintain National Parks, National Refuges, Wilderness Areas, National Monuments, etc., yet some encourage more expansion of mineral exploration and general development in and around these National treasures?

That as water becomes scarcer in many areas, watering of lawns and golf courses extravagantly is not sufficiently controlled, and that people can continue populating water scarce areas?

That as many move to lakes, rivers, mountain retreats and ocean shores to observe and live amongst beauty and wildlife, what they do - and their very presence - is counterproductive to the health and wellbeing of the natural order?

That the will of the people is most often at odds with scientifically acclaimed "Best Practices" and they are adamant about remaining so?

That a Pessimist could be an Optimist, if things didn't appear so pessimistic?

That the situation is more than ironic?

*Respectfully opinioned,
Dick Brown*

Agricultural appropriations

Thanks to Gary Schwartz (Owatonna Chapter) for forwarding this year-end message from the national Izaak Walton League's Conservation staff person, Duane Hovorka.

The President signed the FY 2020 federal appropriations legislation before Christmas, and after slogging through the bills as enacted I can report that we came out fairly well on our appropriations priorities.

❖ The mandatory conservation programs in the Farm Bill all received full funding as enacted in the Farm Bill (Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and Voluntary Public Access/Habitat Improvement Program). That is over \$5 billion in annual funding from USDA to help farmers and ranchers become better land stewards. Most of those dollars are allocated at the state level by your state Natural Resources Conservation Service (or Farm Service Agency for CRP), with input from the NRCS State Technical Committee.

❖ NRCS received a small increase (about 1 percent) for its Conservation Operations budget, which includes NRCS Technical Assistance (farm planning and conservation program delivery); many other USDA programs saw flat budgets or very small increases.

❖ We had some clear wins with at least 7 of our priority programs, which received substantial increases in year over year funding (most were at least a 10% increase). That includes the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Chesapeake Bay Program, and (much smaller) Gulf of Mexico program; the Corps of Engineers South Florida/Everglades construction program; and the Interior Department's Land and Water Conservation Fund and North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. All of those reflect concerted efforts by conservation groups and others to press for needed increases, and most of them were targeted for huge cuts by the President's initial budget proposal early in the year.

All in all, it was a pretty good outcome in a difficult year with lots of partisan rancor. That success is driven in large part by the willingness of individuals and organizations to ask their members of Congress to support programs that benefit fish, wildlife, wetlands, and our other natural resources.

The Silent Auction Raises Scholarship Funds

The silent auction has become an important fundraiser for our Chapter's scholarship fund. At this year's holiday party on January 19 we will again have many unique items donated by our members as well as a number of products, services and gift certificates donated by local merchants. Be sure to arrive early to get a good look at all the items. Bidding will start at 4 pm and continue until 6 pm.

If you would like to donate an item, or if you know of a nearby business that would be willing to make a donation, contact Jim or Judy Arnold (763 560 8972 or jjarnold@q.com). Items can be brought to the Chapter House on Saturday morning the 18th during set up or by 4 pm on January 19.

Seeking Volunteers

If you can provide light refreshments for our Tuesday meetings, please contact Barbara Franklin 763-657-1907 Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

**Feb 25 - Karen Ostenso
Mar 24 -
Apr 21 -**

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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 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.

Busy hands are happy hands...

...or at least productive. Several Ikes, organized by Karen Ostenso and including Wendy & Jerry Steel, Tim & Lori Johnson, Jim Arnold and Barb Franklin volunteered to give the Chapter House a thorough cleaning for the holidays.

