



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League

April 2023

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

April 2023

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
John Moriarty – History of Bald Eagle Surveys in MNRRA

May 2023

- 7 Pancake Breakfast 8 am-1 pm
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm

June 2023

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

Social Educational Meeting:
Tuesday April 25, 7:30 PM
John Moriarty: History of Bald Eagle Surveys in MNRRA

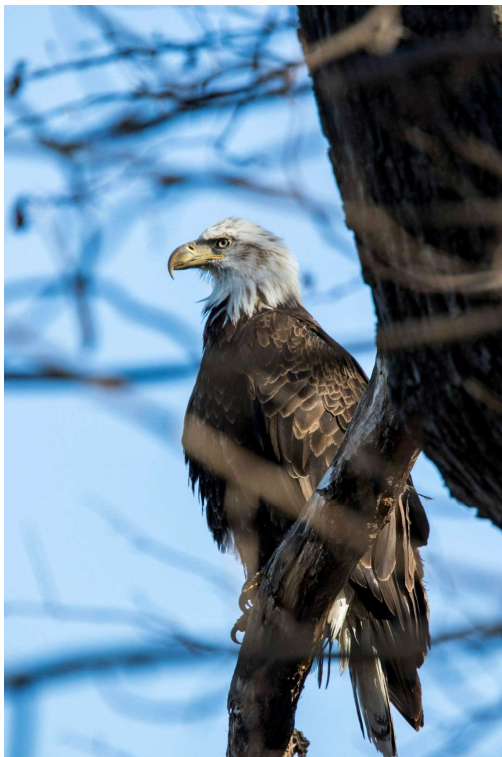


Photo Courtesy of Kathy Larson

John Moriarty is the Senior Manager of Wildlife at Three Rivers Park District. He has been partnering with the National Park Service on many projects, especially the eagle survey, since his time working for Ramsey County Parks. He is also a member of the Breckenridge Chapter.

John will talk about the annual Bald Eagle surveys he has been conducting for the NPS's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) for 70 miles of the river from Dayton to Prescott, WI. John has been flying the surveys since 2008 and has seen the eagle population grow and expand into more developed stretches of the river. He will highlight the Banfill Island nests and touch on the status of heron rookeries along the river.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights: March 14, 2023

- Tim suggested planting native Sandbar Willow near the waterline of the river soon in early spring before the stems leaf out to prevent bank erosion and Red Osier Dogwood higher up for erosion prevention.
- Karen and Sue presented the results of their work on the Chapter By-Laws and Constitution update: It is based on the template that National IWLA has provided. Changes were discussed and the Board voted to accept the final copy. It now needs to be presented to the membership and acceptance voted on (at April meeting)
- Memorial Bench Committee (Jim, Jerry, Barb) will reconvene to discuss additional plaques to be added (Hans Nielsen and others) and to discuss a dedication ceremony/reception to take place in the Spring, possibly at the Pancake Breakfast.

Willow for Riverbank Erosion Prevention

by Tim Johnson

Establishing the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge a century ago was the first big accomplishment by the Ikes. After listening to a presentation about its current state at our annual Minnesota Division meeting this year, we asked presenter Mary Stefanski (Winona District Manager) about how they are protecting the riverbanks of the islands artificially created by dredge spoils. She said they are moving away from using riprap, except at the head of the islands, and going with natural plantings of shrubs and bushes like willow to stop erosion.

Since our own riverbanks in Brooklyn Park have been suffering from increased erosion and the grant application by our City to armor them was turned down again, we mentioned the idea of planting willow along our stretch of the river to our long

time member and advisor (currently with Three Rivers Parks), John Moriarty. He agreed it is a project worth considering on our Chapter property. All you have to do in the spring to plant them is to stick cuttings in the ground and they will root (very cost effective). He suggested that we do the same with red osier dogwood a little higher up the bank. Deer love willow and will browse on it but the plants will re-sprout every year from the base once established.

The question of why there is currently no willow growing along our riverbanks was puzzling. Botanist Katy Chayka of Minnesota Wildflowers made us aware that there are a few herbarium records which indicate sandbar willow (*salix interior*) along the Mississippi River. They grow to between 6-22 ft tall. She said it may or may not have been in our particular area in the past. Neil Smarjesse of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area told us they have historical maps that label willows and cottonwoods as the primary floodplain species below Fort Snelling. He said the specific willow species isn't listed, but he thinks we're on the right track with the sandbar species. He said that willows are very important forage for early season pollinators, so a well thought out planting could accomplish a number of management goals. Neil said "we'd love to help you with this project and we can offer resources to make it happen."

Finding a place locally to get sandbar willow cuttings proved daunting but a source from a nursery in Michigan was found and the order placed. We ordered 100 thinking we could plant them both on the bluff below the Chapter house and on Banfill Island. We may be able to use money from the \$1,000 donation from the Sitz family specified for conservation projects. The nursery says delivery is in the Spring. We will need to get a work crew together to plant them when we know specifics.

Further information on this willow species was found on the website of Wetland Park Friends. "The sandbar willow plays other important roles in riparian habitats besides bank stabilization. Large and small mammals, waterfowl, and other birds browse its leaves, buds, and shoots in search of insects among its branches and foliage. ... it is a

favorite food of resident beavers. Its densely packed twigs and branches provide safe nesting space and cover for birds that prefer to nest in dense thickets.... Its flowers are an important pollen source for many native bees, and it is a host plant for a variety of butterfly species...

For early Native American tribes on whose land our Chapter House was built, the sandbar willow's "goods" rivaled those found in a department store. Its flexible branches were used in building shelters and making baskets (warp in twined baskets and foundation in coiled ones), arrow shafts, scoops, and fish traps. Its bark was turned into cordage, and both the bark and leaves had various uses as medicines. ... (They) harvested willow in the winter. After careful preparation, the plant was transformed into a wide variety of woven items. The long list includes water jugs, infant cradles, hats, cooking vessels, serving bowls, winnowing trays, seed beaters, and storage baskets."



© 2019 Katy Chayka

Sandbar willow male catkins



2011 © Peter M. Dziuk

2 Sandbar willow fall color

Native Rough Fish Work Group

The invitation below was sent to three Breckenridge Chapter Ikes; Tyler Winter, Tim Johnson and President John Rust. This work group came out of the legal petition we addressed to DNR Commissioner Strommen last year to protect our native “rough fish”.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to invite you to be a participant in the Native Rough Fish Work Group. You have been identified as a stakeholder in this matter and your direct input is welcome. It is anticipated that this group will meet 4 times between late April and early July. You will have the option of participating in each meeting in person or virtually. The primary purpose of this work group project is to develop broadly-supported recommendations leading to native rough fish management strategies.

The Native Rough Fish Work Group will be coordinated by representatives from Zan Associates. These representatives will be in touch with additional information. We intend to hold the first meeting of this group April 26, 2023. Zan Associates will work with all of the participants to establish a meeting time.

Thank you for your interest in the Native Rough Fish Work Group and we look forward to interacting with you over the upcoming months.

Brad Parsons

Division of Fish and Wildlife | Fisheries Section Manager

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Meanwhile in the Legislature, the Senate Environment Omnibus A-3 Delete All Amendment was posted. The Senate “No Junk Fish” language is the same as House version (see below), but organized differently. The implementation funding is twice as much, but for one year instead of two.

Sec. 122. NATIVE FISH CONSERVATION; REPORTS.

(a) By August 1, 2023, the commissioner of natural resources must submit a written update on the

progress of identifying necessary protection and conservation measures for native fish currently defined as rough fish under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.015, subdivision 43, including buffalo, sucker, sheepshead, bowfin, gar, goldeye, and bullhead to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources.

(b) By December 15, 2023, the commissioner of natural resources must submit a written report with recommendations for statutory and rule changes to provide necessary protection and conservation measures and research needs for native fish currently designated as rough fish to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources. The report must include recommendations for amending Minnesota Statutes to classify fish that are native to Minnesota that are currently designated as rough fish and invasive fish currently designated as rough fish separately. For the purposes of this paragraph, native fish include but are not limited to bowfin (*Amia calva*), bigmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus cyprinellus*), smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*), burbot (*Lota lota*), longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*), shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*), goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*), mooneye (*Hiodon tergisus*), and white sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*), and invasive fish include but are not limited to bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), and silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*).



Tyler fishing the Mississippi for native rough fish across from our Chapter House last summer

Phosphorus 101

Summarized by Karen Ostenso from the article "Elemental Need" The New Yorker March 6, 2023.

The use of phosphorus, in the guise of guano, began centuries ago by indigenous farmers in Peru. When Europeans took over parts of South America, they also took over the tons of guano and shipped it to the United Kingdom. By the mid 1800s, the United States rushed to stake claims to many small islands where birds deposited their excrement.

Guano contains nitrogen as well as phosphorus. Eventually chemists found other sources of nitrogen and phosphorus so now fertilizers are readily available for farmers.

The bulk of the phosphorus currently being used comes from Western Sahara, a disputed territory largely controlled by Morocco. An enormous conveyor belt, 61 miles long, carries mined phosphorus from the town of Bou Craa to a coastal port for shipping worldwide. The region through which it passes is barren and flat, to the point that the belt is visible from space.

Sources of phosphorus are relatively rare. There is none in the atmosphere. Other than in Morocco, there are some small reserves in Algeria and China. It is being used in farming in great quantities. There is some disagreement as to how long it will continue to be available in nature, but eventually it will surely be used up.

The only United States source is in central Florida, an area valuable for a variety of other reasons also. When agricultural run-off gets into lakes and waterways, huge blooms of algae grow and water quality deteriorates. Concentrated feeding operations as well as fertilizers run off also, contributing to poor water quality.

People, not only farm animals, secrete phosphorus, primarily in urine. A company in Vermont is researching ways to capture what humans produce. They currently collect urine from donors and process it for use by local farmers.

The author of the article in *The New Yorker* used information from a recently published book, *The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance*, by Dan Egan. The potential to improve recapture of animal excrement was not discussed in the article but must certainly be significant.

Opinion: Arctic Oil Drilling - Hidden Agenda?

By Dick Brown

Environmentalists are rightly concerned about Biden Administrations allowing oil drilling in the Arctic. However, there may be some hidden reasons. This is only speculative on my part.

It seems there could possibly be a third World War looming between now and the next 10 years. If that occurs, we certainly are not prepared to fight it on the solar and wind resources we have today or for many years to come. Military and commercial fleets will be dependent on oil for some time. Think of our Air Force, Navy, Tanks and Army trucks. Swift conversion to solar, wind and battery use will be a long time in coming.

One argument is that it takes 10 or 15 years to develop oil resources from new Ocean platforms and it could be too late for imminent defenses. However, if there are those like me that can remember the great scramble to arm our Nation in the 1940's, things such as resource development can happen more quickly under desperation.

If war breaks out it will probably not be just N.A.T.O. and the European Union against Russia. Probably China, North Korea, Iran, and several other countries will compose our opposition.

Maybe I am dreaming, but in this overpopulated World some countries are expanding their demand for territory, resources and control. As the World becomes more populated and dangerous, we must "Be Prepared"! Could that be the Administration's hidden agenda on Arctic oil drilling?

Opinion: Observations from The Pond

by Dick Brown

Birding authors in the Strib often claim it is not necessary to feed birds in the winter but is done mostly for our personal interest in observation. This is probably true for Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and such as they not only store some items of food but instinctively seek insects by picking under loose bark and rotten wood.

Mourning Doves and probably Cardinals don't seem to have that trait. They don't scratch for food as Turkeys or Pheasants do. Mourning Doves, Cardinals and Juncos are mostly ground or platform feeders and when snow covers these areas they are out of luck. Of course, in a mild winter weed seeds can be found standing above the snow or bare ground, if there is any.

Last winter we had a group of 3 Doves at our platform feeder regularly. This winter we are intermittently hosting 6 or 7, early morning and late evening About 10 years ago (before they opened hunting season on Doves) we counted 14 Doves on the South side of our house and more or less behind bushes. It seemed to be a constant flock.

On our feeder Doves don't seem to prefer sunflower seeds or cracked corn quite as much but prefer white millet and safflower seeds. It's best to experiment with different seeds and if one type of bird ignores one kind of seed, others will be happy to take it up. The main problem with platform and ground feeding is the constant cover up by frequent snows. Keep it up as most birds will enjoy it and I am sure it aids their winter survival. We have not seen Cardinals or Doves on suet feeders.

Birds that survive the winter in fine fettle will likely have strong broods in spring.

Champlin Garden Club Spring Plant Sale



**Saturday, May 13th,
2023**

8 am - 3 pm

**Willy McCoy's Parking
Lot
Hwy 169 & Hayden Lake Rd**

**Annuals/Perennials/
Natives/Veggies/Herbs/Hanging Baskets**

***Pollinators love that our plants are from
local reputable nurseries that do not use
neonicotinoids!***

Cash, Checks or Credit Accepted

***Come and support this local group that
plants and maintains the gardens at Doris
Kemp Park, the Champlin cemetery and has
provided support to the horticulture
programs at both CPBA and Champlin Park
High School.***

***If you are interested in joining our group,
please contact us on our Facebook page.
We would be happy to have you join us!***

Izaak Walton League, Breckenridge Chapter
Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 7, 2023

8 am-1 pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Raffle \$2

Breckenridge Chapter House
8816 West River Road
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444



W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
8816 West River Road
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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
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.

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 breckcal@yahoo.com)