



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League December 2017



### December

- 12 Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 26 No social/education. Meeting this month,

### January 2018

- 9 Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 21 Holiday Party 4:00  
Naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer Stan Tekiela

### Winter Party January 21, 2018

4:00 Social Hour and  
Silent Auction

5:00 Dinner

6:00 Program

More details to come in  
January.

Mark your calendar now.

Our Chapter House is for rent for holiday events

#### 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)



## Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes Nov 14, 2017

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Karen, Jim, Dick, Tim, John, Wes, Dennis, Joe & Larry attended.

Meeting 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 man's sharing in it.*

Dick introduced a resolution on moose management relating to reducing white-tailed deer in prime moose habitat. Some language edits were approved by the board after which the resolution was approved unanimously. Dick will send a copy of it to the DNR and Minnesota State IWL.

Marlys suggested we strive to have a really good Timberlines issue for the holidays so as to have copies available for the many holiday rentals. She suggested we include some details of the January party.

A discussion was had about modifying the oak slab coffee table with casters, as it is too heavy for our renters to move as is. Steve and Dick will look for some casters.

Jim handed out copies of Chris Knopf's letter to the editor of the Star Tribune on the proposed Polymet sulfide ore mine. Jim will work on something for the Timberlines on the subject.

Discussion on speakers for the Holiday Party was had. Larry will contact Stan Takela and Dr Starkey of MV Chapter. Other options include Okey Dokey Boys or CPHS choir.

Steve will check with Susan de Laittre of HyVee about once again catering our holiday dinner on January 21.

Tim discussed putting in an application for an energy grant from Minnesota State Division of the IWL. Jim will schedule an energy audit this week with ExCel to help us decide which projects we should include in the request.

Jim asked if we should move the excavated dirt soon from the entrance to put around the chapter house to increase the slope to enhance drainage away from the basement. Decision was made to wait until spring.

Dennis updated the Board on progress to install electric power to our entrance sign.

Jim has arranged with Tom Reid to remove some dead branches on the property. Tom will do the work soon for no charge. Tim gave rental report including addition of some special contract language which was requested for Camp Kesem's rental next week.

John passed out a financial ledger and explained where we stand.

Jim had nothing new to add on scholarships except to acknowledge another generous contribution from one of our members to the endowment fund.

Meeting  
was  
adjourned.  
Tim  
Johnson

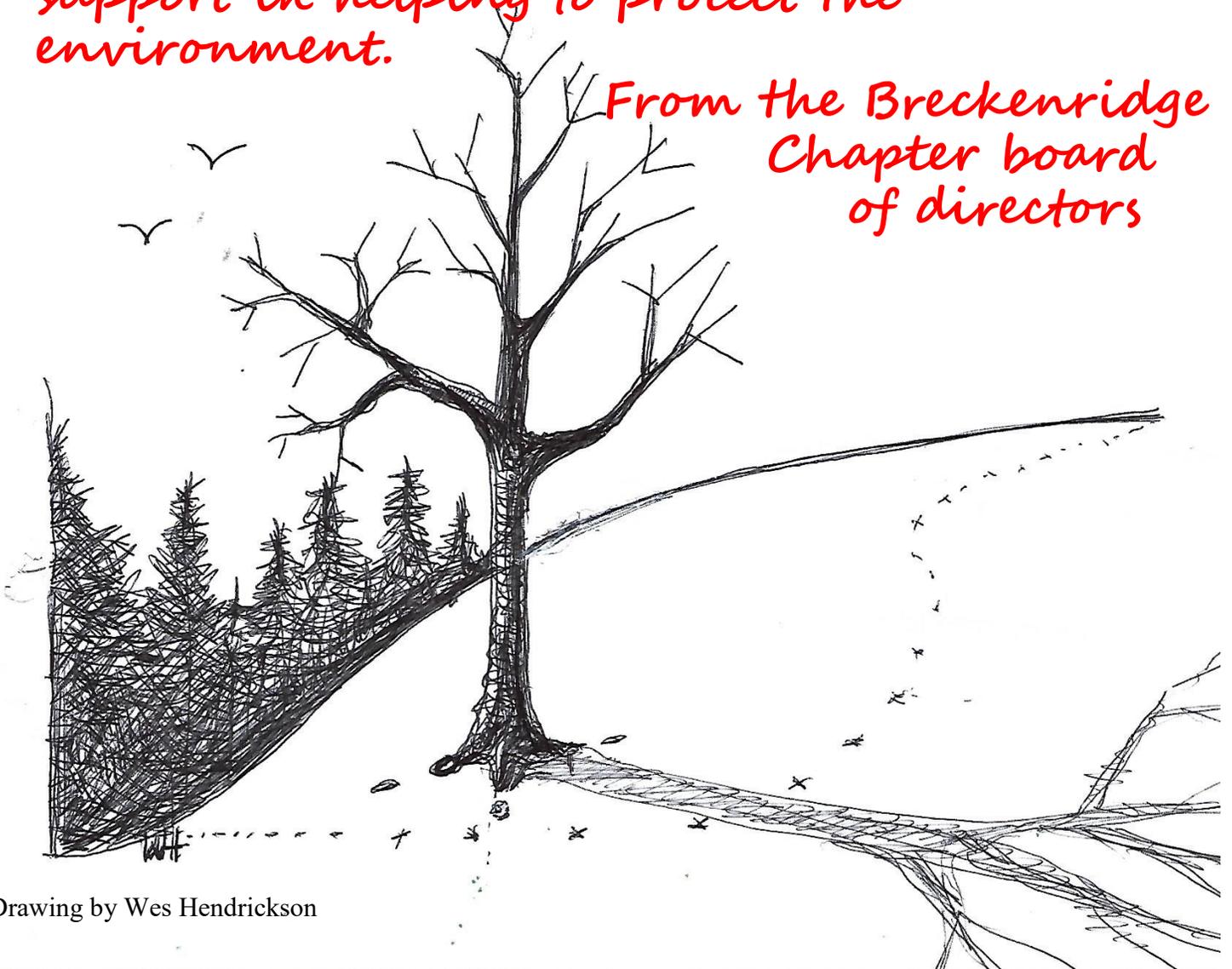


# Merry Christmas

We wish you and yours the best for the holidays and New Year. Join us on January 21 for an evening of food and celebration. Our speaker is Stan Tekiela, photographer and naturalist. His speech is called, Deer Elk, and Moose: Grand and Majestic Creatures.

Thank you members and renters for your support in helping to protect the environment.

From the Breckenridge  
Chapter board  
of directors



Drawing by Wes Hendrickson

## Having Trouble Locating our Entrance Driveway?

This past summer vandals stole the Chapter's Walleye mailbox for the second time. Many of us as well as our renters used to use it as a landmark for where the entrance to our property was located. We had previously lost the lighting on our big sign as well due to failure of the solar powered system so finding the driveway was especially problematic after dark.

This month several of our members (Dennis Leslie, Mike Manthe, Eric Duncan, Joe Klohs, Jim Arnold and Tim Johnson) have been spending some of their spare time volunteering on a project to run electrical power out to the sign from our shed.



*Dennis solders connections placed at every 100 feet.*

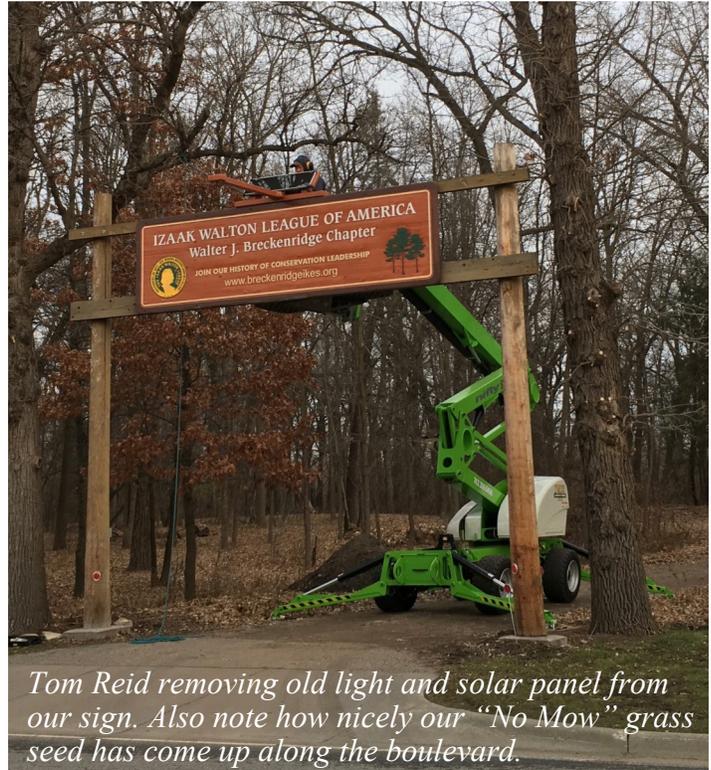
Thanks to the unusually warm weather we have made good progress. The wires have already been run out all the way to the sign in PVC conduit which we plan to bury next spring.

In order to install the new lights we had to remove the heavy old light and solar panel. Tom Reid generously volunteered his time and the use of his fancy "cherry picker" to get this done.

We hope to soon have our new energy saving lights

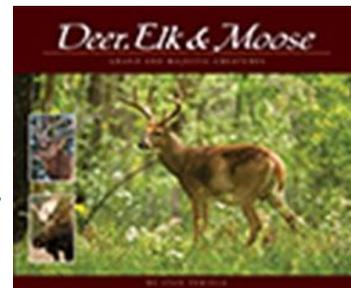
mounted by a licensed electrician. Besides helping us find the driveway at night it will no doubt also get us more publicity for our conservation programs and rentals.

Reported by Tim Johnson



*Tom Reid removing old light and solar panel from our sign. Also note how nicely our "No Mow" grass seed has come up along the boulevard.*

Stan Tekiela's talk at the Holiday Party is:  
**Deer, Elk and Moose: Grand and Majestic Creatures**



## TOMB OF AN ANCIENT GIANT

In the year 2000 approximately 30 citizens of Champlin went before the City Council to preserve Champlin's remnant of "Ancient Oak Savanna". Members were Bill Bauer, Dick & Vera Brown, Joan Chalmers, Darby Nelson, Josephine Nunn, Bill Simpkins, and Bill & Betty Stein. We represented Izaak Walton League, Champlin Garden Club, Champlin Historical Soc., American Legion, Kiwanis and Friends of the Champlin Library, Historically, Champlin was a mix of prairie, Oak Savanna and riverine forest. At the SW corner of Hi 169 and 117<sup>th</sup> Ave. there remained about 3 acres of woods dominated by exactly 30 ancient Burr Oaks including one Red Oak. These 30 trees averaged 120" in circumference, probably from 125-200 years old. This was once the old Weaver Farm which later became the Sheriff Earl Brown farm. It seemed at first the developer and City were amenable to the idea. But when the City demanded the developer pay the approx. cost of re-vamping the intersection of Hi 169 & 114<sup>th</sup> Ave. (approx. \$300,000) we lost our cause.

Meanwhile the City passed an ordinance whereby any tree over 8" diameter needed permission of the City to be cut. As a result of the Maple Bank construction more trees were cut but by installing a bend in the building and other environmental structures they saved 9 out of 30 trees. Construction of Theatre Drive took several more which could have been averted by the installation of a curve in the street. Of approx. 12 trees still standing in the spring of 2016, during that year others fell due to the construction of a tremendously oversized apartment building. Had they moved the building a few feet to the South, several ancient Oaks could have remained.

In late summer of 2016 two City trucks delivered to our house a 4" slab of the trunk of one of those ancient Oaks. It weighed about 200 lb. To me it was like the tombstone of one of Champlin's oldest citizens. Our son, Bill hauled this slab to his custom cabinet shop in North Branch and let it dry for over a year before application of several coats of finish. His son, Wesley built an iron stand for it. Then, it was brought to our house. Not knowing what to do with it I asked Larry Kennebeck, Breckenridge Chapter V.P. if he thought the Chapter would like to have it for their coffee table. Larry said he thought it would be wonderful. So at the next Board meeting I brought it down for Board approval. The approval was excitingly unanimous.

This table is a monument to the tragic and unnecessary destruction of our City's most ancient living species that were here before development. And

some may have lived well beyond another 100 years as an example to future residents of what our area once was.

In 2018 and beyond, residents of this humongous apartment building will know little what pleasure it could have been to sit in the shade of an endemic resident 2 or 3 times their own age. Time marches on and so does the onslaught of our Natural Heritage!

Dick Brown

### What is *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* and why should we care?

*P. tenuis* is the rather cumbersome scientific name for what is commonly called brainworm. Recent data from the DNR and university researchers are showing that it is, at least, partially responsible for a percentage of the drastic decline in the moose population in northern Minnesota.

In the last 10 years our moose population has decreased approximately 50 percent. White tailed deer are ranging farther north into territory historically left to moose. Deer carry brainworm but rarely suffer any consequences. It is, however, often deadly to moose. It is transmitted from deer to moose via a process of several steps, one of which includes snails and slugs on the floor of the forest.

Why are deer expanding their range farther north? Because that environment is becoming more welcoming to them. The snow cover has diminished in the previously moose-only habitat due to our generally warming northern ranges.

The question becomes 'what can we do to decrease the frequency of contact between deer and moose?' Unfortunately, decreasing the temperature to previous levels will not happen in the foreseeable future, if ever. Furthermore, attempts to prevent transmission to moose have been unsuccessful. Therefore, the best option currently available is to decrease the deer population by changing deer hunting limits and/or extending the hunting season. The Minnesota DNR is responsible for handling the situation.

This information was gleaned from Wikipedia and news articles.



## Protecting America's Red Rock Wilderness

Many members of our Chapter have been reading with alarm the reports of the activities of Trump's cabinet members regarding conservation policy. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, on his first full day in office rescinded the policy of the Obama administration that banned the use of lead bullets and lead fishing tackle in national wildlife refuges. He also is working to roll back the boundaries of several National Monuments (a legally questionable move), presumably to facilitate fossil fuel extraction and cattle grazing.

Our speaker for September, Clayton Daughenbaugh, who organizes for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance addressed us on the subject of preserving the Utah red rock wilderness, with a special update on the new Bears Ears National Monument. He said significant headway had been made toward protecting the red rock wilderness by the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument by President Obama but that Zinke and his Utah supporters (notoriously anti-conservationist Congressman Rob Bishop and convicted ATV protester and San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman) are proposing to reduce the size of the Monument by 90%. Clayton expects that doing so would be a long process and that we should expect to see the two sides in court since the legality of un-designating national monuments has not been tested in the courts.

Clayton informed us that currently there exists a law named the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that states that the Secretary (the "Secretary" being a euphemism for the executive branch) does not have the authority to modify or revoke national monuments. The Trump administration is expected to argue that the intent of the law was not to apply to the President.

He also expects further attacks on the red rock wilderness to be coming out of the Republican majority House of Representatives and for this reason he hopes to convince Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar to sign on as a co-sponsor of the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act which would protect iconic western landscapes with evocative names like Desolation Canyon, Cedar Mesa, and Labyrinth Canyon, as well as lands within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Also needed is support from other members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation. Clayton urged those of us who are Rep. Paulson's constituents to contact him about supporting the Act. Paulson has been an advocate for Minnesota's wilderness (he has a canoe mounted on his office wall and recently spoke in favor of maintaining the moratorium on copper-nickel mining near the BWCAW).



## THOMPSON'S TAKE

11-12-2017

M & I were picked up on Friday by good friends and whisked off on a casual day trip. First stop ... **Daube's Bakery** in Rochester. Just can't drive through Rochester without stopping there for raspberry or chocolate paczki's. Paczkis are Polish donuts, similar to Berliners or Bismarks only better. See Wikipedia. They're pronounced Pawnch-kees or puunch-kees for those of you who lack mastery of the Polish language. Out of this world as bakery goes.



Next stop was The **International Owl Center** (IOC) in Houston, MN. IOC is the only place like it in the *United States*, let alone Minnesota. There are some other "owls only" nature centers elsewhere in the world but they, too, are few. Delightful stop! The IOC is open on Fridays thru Mondays, so ... you

can't use the IOC as an excuse for missing the Thursday Ike's meeting!. They have all kinds of appropriate museum specimens, an owl-themed gift shop, and best of all, very informative, live owl programs including a "fly-over" by one of their in-house birds. They also have traveling productions for schools and other organizations motored around by their "owl-mobile." Houston, MN is only about an hour and a half from Owatonna. Not only is the IOC there, but you will be in Minnesota's beautiful Bluff-country. It can be just a great day. Check them out and schedule a visit or a membership with their web page ... [www.InternationalOwlCenter.org](http://www.InternationalOwlCenter.org).

After the IOC we drove to the Mississippi River (from Houston) and went south on highway 26 through Brownsville, then another 3 miles or so to a roadside pull-off overlooking the river. There we viewed a panorama of water, islands, marsh plants, Wisconsin bluffs and ... about 5000 **Tundra Swans**! It was a breath-taking spectacle. Every spring these swans fly north through this area, (including Steele County) heading for northern Canada and Alaska to raise their young. In fall they return to their wintering grounds in and around Chesapeake Bay near the Atlantic coast. The south migration *usually* does not involve Steele County, however. They, instead, travel a bit further east and follow the Mississippi River for a ways, maybe to Iowa, then head east. When they get to the river they usually stay for a while, feeding on bottom plants (tubers) in shallower areas, presumably resting the young and fattening up for the rest of the trip. Tundra Swans generally stay until late November or early December unless ice eliminates open water. I have often seen them in the Weaver Bottoms area north of Winona but, there, they are quite a ways out and difficult to see. The area south of Brownsville is nicely set up so you can sit in your car and watch if the weather is raw. On nicer days just stand there with your binoculars (or not), camera ... whatever you like. The swans are very close. They are also flying around as well as swimming. If you keep an eye peeled, you will spot a Bald Eagle or two. Eagles *are* keeping an eye peeled for a swan that may have some health issues. An additional treat is that so many swans, all talking at the same time, produce a very mellow "cooing" sound, delightful to listen too. On some occasions I thought their call sounded a bit like Sandhill Cranes. Tundra Swans were once known as Whistling Swans. The name was changed back in the 80's I believe. Never did understand the name "whistling." I've seen hundreds of thousands of them. Never heard one whistle! Or even make a sound I would call whistling. They always sound like they are cooing. Maybe Pigeon Swan would have been a better name. Oh well.

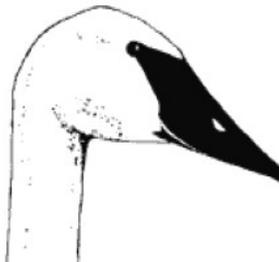
There are two (sometimes three) swan types one could see in Steele County. **Trumpeter Swans** nest here in the spring/summer. Trumpeters are larger than Tundra Swans and rarely, around here, form groups of more than one or two families, so maybe 6 to 10 birds. Trumpeters only migrate far enough south to find open water. There, they might form larger groups. Their call is not musical. Trumpeter? Sounds more like a cheap New Years Eve horn tome!

Now and then a **Mute Swan** escapes captivity. The black knob over an orange-ish beak sets them apart. They can be seen on ponds, lakes, or streams. Mute Swans can be tough on other water fowl, and are thought of as invasive in some areas, Michigan in particular. The pictures below are from a MI-DNR document.

In spite of the rawness of the day had a very nice time. The cost? Some gasoline and a sandwich. Oh, ... a paczki!  
Well, alright then ... NFT



Mute Swan

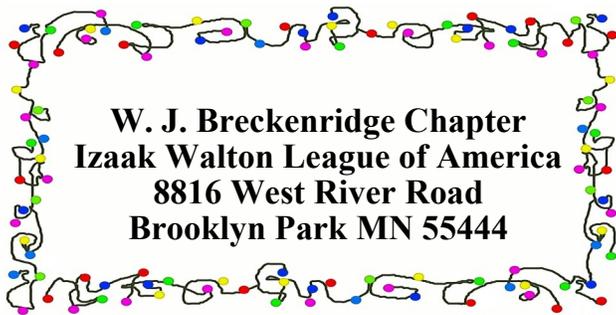


Trumpeter Swan



Tundra Swan

we  
and



If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: [EditorBreckIWL@msn.com](mailto:EditorBreckIWL@msn.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.”

## ERIKA SITZ - LONG TIME I.W.L.A. MEMBER

Erika and Paul Sitz have been long time Izaak Walton members since the 1970's. Erika was a member of the Breckenridge Chapter (formerly North Mpls. Chapter) since the early 1980's and perhaps before. She served as President of the Minnesota Division of the IWLA in the early 1980's and was treasurer and board member of the Breckenridge Chapter for many years.

As an active supporter of Ike's issues Erika often lobbied Congress and the Minnesota Legislature. She was also a strong supporter and board member of Friends of the Boundary Waters and active in the League of Women Voters. Erika and Paul were avid bird watchers and frequently traveled to areas like Northern Minnesota, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and Nebraska to observe favorite birds.

Breckenridge Chapter members were very sorry to hear of Erika's death on November 27, 2017. Our condolences go out to her husband Paul and her brother Eric. Chapter members will long remember Erika's commitment to conservation issues.

*A memorial service for Erika will be held at 2:00 on Friday, December 15 at the Breckenridge Chapter House at 8816 West River Rd. in Brooklyn Park. See the Sunday obituary section of the Minneapolis paper on December 3rd and 10<sup>th</sup> for more information.*

