



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
February 2019

[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Jay Gustafson - Minnesota State Water Trails

### MARCH 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
John Moriarty - *The Field Guide to the Natural World of the Twin Cities*

### APRIL 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

Social/Educational Meeting

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:30 p.m.

Jay Gustafson

*Minnesota State Water Trails*

Join Waterway Jay as he recaps the 2018 season of Paddle for Progress, a 2 year 4,300mi journey to raise awareness of the water quality crisis in Minnesota. Jay has solo canoed 30 of the 34 state water trails mapped by the Minnesota DNR and will discuss how his project began, what he has learned about our rivers, and the current state of water in Minnesota. Jay will share stories, photos, and ideas for how individuals and groups can become involved with the needed solutions to protect and preserve our water.

Although he was born and raised in South Dakota, Jay Gustafson has felt a connection to Minnesota since childhood. He fell in love with paddling on a trip to the Boundary Waters with his dad at age 12. Jay is a former IT Business Analyst with a passion for water in Minnesota. In 2016, Jay paddled the Mississippi River from source to sea and discovered the irresistible call of the river. In June 2017, Gustafson quit his job of 10 years to begin Paddle for Progress. After canoeing full time through October, 2018, Jay took a job with Northstar Canoes. He is very excited to turn his passion for water quality and canoeing into a full time career in paddle sports.



# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes January 8, 2019

A quorum of board members was present: Steve, Tim, Barb, Larry, Joe, Wes, Karen 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.*

## Issues:

Dick suggested we send one year's subscription of *Outdoor America* to the libraries at Champlin Park High School and Jackson Middle School. The board was in favor.

A motion to present Matt Klohs with a one year Chapter membership was approved to thank him for the work he did on improvements in insulation and caulking of our basement.

Karen suggested we plan a clean-up day soon for our basement. She volunteered to organize this.

Dick introduced a motion asking for support of our Chapter for the conversion of Champlin's Oxbow Park's north arm to restored prairie to benefit pollinators. The motion passed unanimously. Dick and other Champlin residents will meet with the mayor later this week to solicit his support and plan next steps.

A draft resolution from Dell Ericksson on human population policy recommendations was introduced by Dick. Discussion was had and the Board asked for a side-by-side comparison of current Ike's National population policy with the draft. Further discussion and action was deferred to a future meeting.

Joe explained that he and other members have volunteered to look into the cost of making some improvements to our bathrooms. They will present their findings at a future Board meeting.

Joe has volunteered to sit on a Brooklyn Park City committee to recommend a plan for allocating funds from the recently passed Park Bond Referendum. Their goal will be to "Develop and implement a Natural Resource Management plan to include removing invasive species, correcting and stabilizing river/creek shoreline erosion, and managing tree and prairie restoration."

Tim suggested that our Board develop an annual budget for spending on conservation projects. Agreement was expressed generally to add this task to a future agenda.

Details of our January 20<sup>th</sup> holiday party were reviewed. Lori Johnson has volunteered to be the contact person and work with the Arnolds on our January silent auction to benefit our scholarship fund.

## Building and Grounds:

Tim reported that:

- Hipsag Electric has completed installation of wiring in our kitchen to set the refrigerator on its own circuit.
- Ice problems in our parking lot are worse than usual this year. We will try getting sand spread on the dangerous areas.

## Treasurer:

Our treasurer John was again not present due to a health concern but he submitted our financial spreadsheet to the Board electronically.

# Scholarship Program Enters 20<sup>th</sup> Year

Twenty years ago board member and treasurer John Breckenridge, now living in Switzerland, suggested that our chapter form a scholarship program for local students studying for careers in conservation or the environment. Soon after a committee was formed and fund raising began. An endowment was created with an initial donation from the estate of Irene Swanson in the summer of 1999, followed shortly thereafter by sizeable donations from Cynthia Haugland and Walter and Dorothy Breckenridge. When John moved the committee continued to expand the work of scholarship.

Our Chapter has now awarded 80 five hundred dollar scholarships. The main source of funding for these scholarships is the endowment fund which continues to grow thanks to generous donations each year from Breckenridge Chapter members and friends.

Last year our fund received large donations from the following:

- Larry Swanson (Irene's son)
- Tom & Marilyn Breckenridge
- John Breckenridge (In memory of Walter & Dorothy Breckenridge and in honor of Barb Franklin)
- Mary Ellen Vetter
- Darby & Geri Nelson
- Martha Harris & Brad Nagel (parents of scholarship recipient)
- Charlie & Marlys Taflin
- Jim & Judy Arnold
- Christopher Berry (parent of scholarship recipient)
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When earnings from the endowment are not sufficient to cover the yearly scholarship costs, fund raisers (like the annual silent auction) and special donations from other members have been used. Information on donating to the fund can be found on our web site or by contacting a member of the committee: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin.

Thanks to all those members who have made it possible to support local young people as they study for their environmental careers.

**Applications for the Breckenridge Chapter's Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Water, and Wildlife scholarship were recently sent to local schools and can also be found on our Chapter's website.**

# \*\*\* THE HOLIDAY PARTY \*\*\*

**Thank you to the following local merchants who made donations to our silent auction:**

- Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano ..... 12051 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove
- Brooklyn Park Liquor (Liquor Barrel)..... 8520 Edinburgh Center Dr, Brooklyn Park 55444
- Café Donut ..... 11175 Jefferson, Champlin, 55326
- Creative Blooms ..... 9550 Noble Parkway, Brooklyn Park 55443
- Hudy's Café ..... 11350 Aquila Dr. N., Champlin, 55316
- Jet's Pizza ..... 9730 Schreiber Terrace, Brooklyn Park, 55445
- Love That Olive ..... 13551 Grove Drive, Maple Grove 55311
- Noble Parkway Mobil ..... 9500 Noble Parkway, Brooklyn Park 55443
- Three Squares Restaurant ..... 12690 Arbor Lakes Pkwy, Maple Grove 55369
- Trader Joes ..... 12105 Elm Creek Blvd, Maple Grove 55369
- Up North Liquor ..... 9570 Noble Parkway Brooklyn Park 55443
- 5-8 Grill & Bar ..... 6251 Douglas Court North, Champlin 55316

And, to the many members and friends of the Chapter who donated or purchased auction items. The silent auction raised more than \$750 which will help provide \$500 scholarships for local students who have a strong interest in, and a commitment to the environment.

## Special thanks to:

Carol Knutson of Spectacular Catering for providing a delicious meal, the many folks who provided desserts and all those who set up and decorated the Chapter House.

And, to the following members and friends of the Chapter who donated auction items:

- Judy Arnold
- Barb Franklin
- Tim & Lori Johnson
- Darby & Geri Nelson
- Hans Nielsen
- Karen Ostenso
- Janet Tripp
- Charlie and Marlys Taflin
- Mary Ellen Vetter



# It's a Sled Dog's Life

Sledding Hike!



Melanie @TravelsInNature.org

## Protecting Oxbow Creek Park

*Dick Brown presented this statement to the Environmental Resources Commission on 2/4/2019.*

I come here tonight because we realize you are the environmental oriented entity of the City. We think you may be familiar with the declining pollinator situation.

As a member of the Champlin Garden Club and the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, an environmental conservation organization, I am here to ask for your support of the following issue to the Champlin City Council.

The expansion of farming, cities and highway infrastructure has diminished the habitat for most native wildlife. Some species have become extinct and others greatly diminished. Pollinators have been hit especially hard due to habitat loss and the use of insecticides.

Champlin City Councils in the past have set aside areas such as Galloway and Oxbow which has helped to alleviate the situation. However, these areas are predominately grass prairies which are wonderful for most wildlife species, but not the best for pollinator species.

In the North arm of Oxbow Park we understand there will be approximately 3 acres that could be converted to an actual Native flowering prairie established with Native perennials attractive to bees, butterflies and certain species of birds. The North arm of the park was bought by the City about 45 years ago for public use. We think a good public use would be to aid diminishing pollinators and other wildlife species. Furthermore, residents will enjoy a passive view, and they and students from nearby schools will have an excellent place to study and observe nature.

We ask for this commission's support to the City Council on this issue.

Our very entertaining and informative speaker, Melonie Shipman



# An Optimal United States Population Dell Erickson, December, 2018

*"The time has come to speak more openly of a population policy, ... what, in the judgment of its informed citizenry, is the optimal population ... addressing ... the full range of processes that lock together the economy and the environment, ... the welfare of the present generation with that of future generations."*

E.O. Wilson, "The Diversity of Life",  
1992, p. 329.

*"The Sierra Club urges the people of the United States to abandon population growth as a pattern and goal; to commit themselves to limit the total population of the United States in order to achieve balance between population and resources; and to achieve a stable population no later than the year 1990."* Adopted May 3-4, 1969. (The Ikes and other environmental organizations had similar positions.)

*"Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course ... many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know."* Over 1,500 science academies from sixty-nine nations (with over 100 Nobel laureates) signed this, "Warning to Humanity", November 18, 1992.

*"We have, or soon will have, exhausted the necessary physical prerequisites so far as this planet is concerned. This is a one-shot affair. If we fail, this planetary system fails... there will be one chance, and one chance only."*

Sir Fred Hoyle, Of Men and Galaxies, 1964.

An optimal population maximizes our living standard, environmental health, and ecosystem's integrity.

Today, because of U.S. overpopulation our country is failing to balance resource consumption while relentlessly degrading life-support systems upon which its society, economy, and ecosystem integrity depend.

If we refuse to act quickly, Mother Nature will see that a sustainable United States population will come. What resources and ecosystems will

remain? Do we desire the brutish life of 200 years ago but with a squandered ravaged environment? That is the current Ike policy. We only get one chance.

Co-authors Dr. Walter Breckenridge and Dick Brown back in 1992 authored the first Chapter Resolution calling for U.S. population stabilization including, "urging the US Government to extensively reduce immigration." The reasons given almost thirty years ago are more crucial today, "it is imperative to preserving our natural diversity of wildlife that can live together with people in sustainable proportions into the foreseeable future." It was repeated in 1998.

Consistent with the opening quotes, almost fifteen years ago, the Breckenridge Chapter wisely passed a population resolution calling for stopping U.S. population growth. It failed at the highest Ike levels. No surprise, the national Ikes removed from public access all integration, all discussions and information of U.S. population policies –and even of passed resolutions, such as the Breckenridge Resolution.

Discarding their excellent former population policies and practices, today the Ikes, and other environmental organization's, lack of an objective policy is actually a U.S. population policy of unlimited growth and unlimited natural resource and environmental losses.

Since the Breckenridge resolution failed, the U.S. population has increased by more than forty, and probably fifty or more million, depending on the number of illegal aliens. The Ikes failure has meant that since the time of the 2004 Breckenridge Resolution the U.S. has added an entire population equal to today's combined population of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, Wyoming, Montana, and Michigan.

Species types and numbers are in trouble, even readily access to natural areas, good hunting and fishing are a pleasant memory, habitats gone or reduced, likewise wetlands, more invasive species, more crowding. Practically everything in the Ikes Pledge, failing. Yet, we Party On.

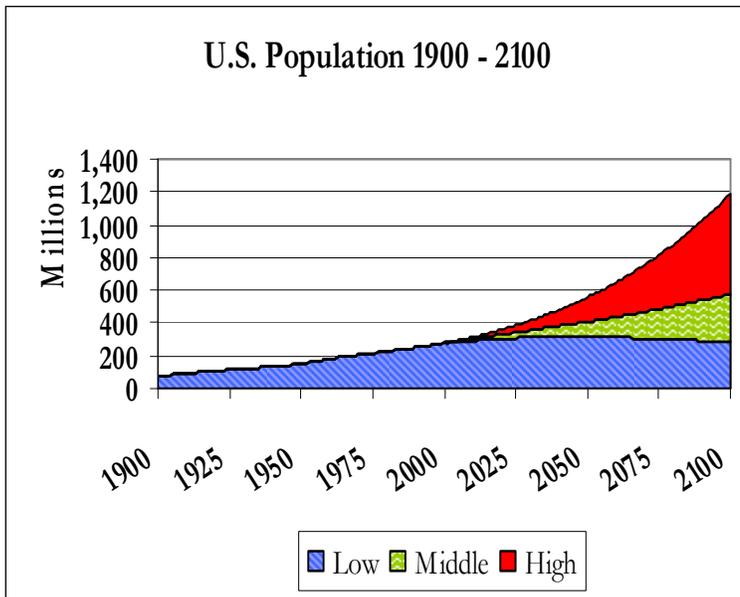
(cont. on p. 4)

## The Frightening Trend of the United States Population

Echoing the Sierra Club's and former Ike's positions, the National Commission on Population Growth and the American Future in 1972 concluded,

**... no substantial benefits will result from further growth of the nation's population, rather the gradual stabilization of our population through voluntary means would contribute significantly to the nation's ability to solve its problems.**

U.S. population growth is illustrated by graphs of Census 2000 data. The 1965 and subsequent immigration law changes produced the two upper trendlines.



With immigration unimagined by the 1972 National Population Commission, within the lifetime of today's school-age children, the U.S. population is projected to reach more than 500 million. There is no program in place to slow, stop, or reduce the U.S. population to an optimal or even sustainable number.

If this projection is the population vision of the Ikes and their policymakers, then nothing need be done; it is not conjecture or opinion, it is happening under current policies. The "Low" U.S. trendline (lowest/blue) includes domestic and immigrant fertility plus yearly immigration of 250,000. It would have led to an optimal and sustainable U.S. population.

It is important to note that all increases in population growth above low trendline and resulting increases in consumption, pollution, greenhouse emissions, habitat and species loss, energy and resource depletion, are due to legal and illegal immigration.

When is enough, enough? Select a point on the High graph trendline that is a suitable growth and resource objective. Now backup 50 years. That is the time the U.S. needs to implement population policies to achieve the natural resource, habitat, energy and growth objective. Too late - the best that can be hoped for now is a crowded and divisive population of 400 or so million. And still increasing!

Terrible this day, without quickly stopping U.S. population growth the additional environmental costs will be unavoidable, staggering, and irreparable. Entire ecosystems collapsed. Pollinators gone, Wetlands gone. Hunting and fishing something only read or talked about in stories.

*Editors note:*

*Dell also submitted:*

*RESOLUTION OF THE WALTER J BRECKENRIDGE CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA SUPPORTING AN OPTIMAL AND STABILIZED UNITED STATES POPULATION, which is under discussion by the Board of Directors.*

**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.

### **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)

**If you can provide light  
refreshments for our  
Tuesday meetings, please contact  
Barbara Franklin  
763-657-1907  
Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)**

**Feb 26 - Sheila Weber  
Mar 26 - Janette Lamber  
Apr 23 - Karen Ostenso**

