



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
November 2018

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Grant Merritt – *Iron and Water*

DECEMBER

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Christmas Day – no meeting

JANUARY

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 20 Winter Party – Melonie Shipman

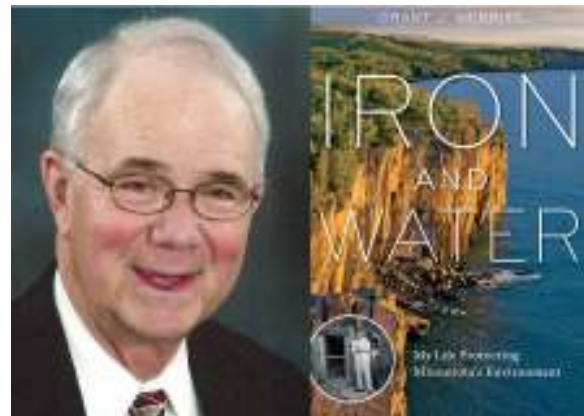
Social/Educational meeting November 27, 7:30 pm
The public is welcome.

Grant Merritt

Iron and Water: My Life Protecting Minnesota's Environment.

The Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and Environmental Protection Agency were born at the national level in the 1970s. In Minnesota, the Pollution Control Agency was formed as an independent agency headed by an independent board of citizen directors. A copper-mining moratorium was imposed. And Reserve Mining Co. was ordered by federal judges to stop dumping 67,000 tons of taconite tailing mine waste into Lake Superior every day. Duluth native Grant Merritt didn't just have a window seat to this environmental awakening, he was helping drive the bus.

Merritt has chronicled his life of environmental activism, DFL politics and legal battles in his new



autobiography titled *Iron and Water: My Life Protecting Minnesota's Environment*. First as a private attorney for grassroots, nonprofit groups working to protect Lake Superior, and then as the first commissioner of the independent Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Merritt helped lead the battle to stop Reserve from dumping tailings into Lake Superior. He is keen to see how both his family's effort to develop the iron mining industry in Minnesota and his efforts to thwart a mining company's pollution of Lake Superior are equal examples of how one family, one person can make a difference on a huge scale.

“The story of Reserve Mining is one of a pivotal battle and ultimate decision that altered environmental legislation on a national scale. It stands today as a historic example and illustration of the power of citizen and political advocacy.” For folks who lived through the stories, it's a reminder of how things have changed, as Merritt would say, some for the better, some not.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes October 9, 2018

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Tim, John, Jim, Karen, Larry and Joe.

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: Speakers are lined up for October (Bell Museum of Natural History). November (Grant Merritt). Melonie Shipman will present for winter holiday party, Jan 20, 2019. Feb 26 Jay Gustafson on Minnesota State Water Trails.

Dick wondered if Ikes might get involved with stocking Champlin kids fishing pond. Joe will check on Brooklyn Park's children's fishing pond and get back to board members.

Larry brought up how cattle are being grazed on Waterfowl Productions Areas (WPAs) and are ruining high value native prairie areas. Dick will see if he can find a speaker on the topic and maybe help us write a resolution for the Ikes.

Steve announced membership is down. The Board agreed we need to see which members we have lost and go from there as to formulate an action plan. We will ask Mary Ellen, membership volunteer, for more detail on which members we have lost.

Joe suggested we need to devote a chunk of time in an upcoming meeting to do strategic planning. Steve enumerated several projects we can discuss at the strategic planning meeting. Joe will submit a list of items for discussion for next board meeting.

Joe will organize a leaf raking date once most leaves are on the ground.

We will be hosting the State Division quarterly fall meeting Oct 19, 20, 21. Tim, Lori, Barb & Karen volunteered to help with hosting the event. Bagels are being donated courtesy of Diane Sannes and Einstein Bros. Bagels.

Tim gave the Rental report: Five November dates have been rented.

John gave the Treasurer's report which shows we still have enough funds from the insurance settlement to continue on some major building maintenance projects next year.

Jim updated the board on scholarships. Initial planning for the January Winter Party and auction to support the scholarships was begun. Date will be Jan 20, 2019 and Melonie Shipman (Co-Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods) will be our speaker.

State Division Board meeting

Fall State Division Board meeting held October 19-21 at the Breckenridge Chapter House was well attended with lively discussions. We will be discussing some of the issues that came up in future board meetings more news /information will come in further publications of *Timberlines*

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

**Nov 27 - Karen Ostenso
Feb 26 -
Mar 26 -**

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is a concept that has been around since the 1980s, but I only recently became aware of it. The Environmental Protection Agency defines it as "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies." It has also been defined as "equitable distribution of environmental risks and benefits."

Using examples of environmental injustice helps to clarify what is involved. The issue is world wide. Big polluters are often located in areas where there is a concentration of those living in poverty, areas of dense population, areas of people with limited political clout, and property of indigenous residents. Examples of big polluters are some types of factories, transportation infrastructure, toxic waste dumps, and waste incinerators.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has done surveys pointing out sections of the state that warrant special consideration. They define such communities as those where 40 percent of the population lives below 185 percent of the federal poverty level; 50 %percent of the population are people of color; and tribal areas. Their website has a map that clearly identifies these regions.

The concept of meaningful involvement of all people is being played out currently politically. Some argue that the oil pipeline would benefit the populations, while environmentalists put greater emphasis on the damage to natural resources. This seems like a great of example of the complexity of weighing risks and benefits.

An early example of the drama of environmental justice is Love Canal disaster which occurred between 1978 and 2004. After years of using a deserted canal as a dumping ground, the Hooker Chemical Company sold the 70 acres of the site to the city of Niagara Falls, NY for one dollar. Low income housing and a school were built nearby in 1957. The toxic waste eventually began to bubble up to the surface and many health problems, including birth defects, sky rocketed. Families lost their homes and it took years of clean up and the Superfund was established as a result.

A particularly horrible example is the 1984 pesticide plant explosion in Bhopal, India. The workers were of low income and the plant had poor safety measures in place. At least 3800 people, probably more, perished. Some persons were eventually held responsible and imprisoned.

The current uproar over the pipeline exemplifies the importance of identifying tribal areas as those being at undue risk. When the news was dominated for weeks about the protests in North Dakota, I do not remember hearing it described as a case of environmental injustice, even though it obviously is.

I understand the overall issue only superficially and wish the term were more commonly used in main stream media, as a means of increasing awareness for the public. I bring it up to raise the issue of what, if any, explicit actions would be appropriate for IWLA. It seems to merit, at least, discussion and increased awareness.

Information was taken from Wikipedia, EPA website, MPCA website and the National Resources Defense Council website.

Karen Ostenso

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)

New Bell Museum Dioramas Restored

Now that the new Bell Museum has opened its doors on the St. Paul campus of the U of M, we can all look forward to making a trip to see this gem. I'm sure most readers have seen the wonderful dioramas before at the old James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History (named after passionate conservationist and founder of General Mills). The dioramas were built in part by Walter J. Breckenridge after whom our Chapter was renamed. Breck did many of the foregrounds and Francis Lee Jacques (after whom our Mahtomedi Chapter was named) did all the backgrounds. The moose diorama was completed in 1946,

Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum, traced some of the history of the Museum and discussed the move of the dioramas at our October meeting. He also presented some of the special features to be found in the galleries and new building.



Don has been associated with the museum since the 1970s and has been involved in the planning for the move of the dioramas for twenty years. Planning involved looking at what others like the Field Museum in Chicago and New York's American Museum of Natural History had done as well as running experiments with the Bell's dioramas. Experiments included adding moose antlers as a "touch and see" outside the moose diorama as well touch screens with more information on current research. The testing showed people were spending more time viewing the diorama with these additions.

The curator's wishes were to honor the old Bell Museum and its original creator's intent and design which was as a work of art and a teaching tool best viewed as a part of a guided tour. Behind the glass, the dioramas now honor the original while outside the glass there is expanded interpretation. Touch screens include complete field guides to every animal in the dioramas.

Moving the dioramas was a big challenge. Don showed us how it was done. He explained how Terry Brown had to disassemble and move each of the very fragile wax plants and leaves in the foregrounds which had originally been made in plaster casts. After reinforcing the displays with steel frameworks, the walls were cut with concrete saws and holes made in the building to get them out. Animals and backgrounds were cleaned (decades of coal and diesel dust accumulation) and re-colored as needed. Finally the dioramas were lit with LED lighting and covered with non-reflective glass.

The new building includes a digital planetarium as part of the plan to include other sciences such as astronomy, geology, and climatology. The plan was to build an overall journey that takes people through time, beginning with the origin of the planet and life through the formation of biomes. The display includes a walk through a wall painted diorama of how it looked 10,000 years ago when Minnesota had two species of elephants, giant beavers, bison, sloths and camels.

The “web of life” section is where most dioramas are and where the intent is to have visitors explore the ecology of Minnesota arranged by the three big biomes.

Also, the desire was to get people thinking of the future since we are living in an age (anthropocene) where man is the dominant force. Interactive media displays about the greenhouse effect are there.



Many of the photographs in the museum are by Jim Brandenburg in keeping with the wish to have top quality artwork. The outside of the building is made from steel originating from the iron range of Minnesota and heat-treated white pine. Water from the entire property is sent to infiltration ponds. Some of the water is used for irrigation in dry times. Amphibians live in the pond and can serve as early warning for salt concentration build up from parking lot drainage. All plantings were native, mainly prairie types. The glass is bird safe. Solar panels are on the roof. Interpretation around building explains the features.

I can't wait to go see the dioramas in their new home!

Reported by Tim Johnson

We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it, chopped down its forests, leveled its hills, muddied its waters, and dirtied its air. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago.

Rose Bird, Chief Justice of California Supreme Court (2 Nov 1936-1999)



THOMPSON'S TAKE

Vol. 15, No. 3

Feb 17, 2018



I LOVE OWLS!! There I said it and I'm proud! (Grin)

Marilyn and I went up to the Sax-Zim Bog this week. Spent 3 days in that area (though only parts of two days in the bog. S-Z Bog is north and west of Duluth and west of the town of Cotton. It's a fascinating place, well ... for birders. It's an area that was kind-of set aside for farming and logging many years ago. Farming was all but a bust but still goes on in places, probably without great profits. Logging, due to the wetness of the soil is largely efficient only in winter when the ground is frozen, and then, winters of deep snow are restrictive. These days, the boggy areas are dominated by black spruce, and tamarack, and where there is much cleared land the dominant plant is a shrub willow. It provides a nice diversity for birds, especially certain BOREAL birds. Boreal birds are normally found in Canada and places that far north on all continents. The boreal forest is one of pretty cold winters and a dependable amount of snow. Where it hasn't been logged off, most of the boreal forest is north of the continental United States. But some reaches down into northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and elsewhere to the east. Interestingly, many of the birds we see in the "bog," in winter, migrate there from Canada. I guess it's their way of being "winter" Minnesotans, a concept borrowed from the idea of winter-Texans. So, it's an exciting place for those of us who are unlikely to ever get to the Canadian boreal forests, especially in the winter, to see boreal birds.

"Yah! So, what did you see?" you ask. Well, I was getting to that!

But first, this. Being a kind of wary old f**t, I watched the weather to see when we would not get wholloped with a snow-storm while we were there. So I picked snow-free days, according to the weather forecast. I didn't care so much about the temperature because we were mostly in a pretty toasty car. And warm we stayed, unless I had the window rolled down. Wait ... "rolled" down? Windows don't *roll* down ... they're electric! OK, unless I had the window electric-ed down, so as to get a clearer view, we were toasty. Lots of gravel roads up there lead to lots of dirty windows! Even with the windows down, Marilyn had some "warm" words for me for letting all that "dam' cold air in!" The word is damned. But who says damned unless they are showing off their intellect. And how does cussin' show off intellect? OK ... she really didn't say that. She is too nice to say that. Anyway, it was really quite warm up there, on those days I chose. In fact, Tuesday, it was over forty! Way too warm! And, just as you find at your feeders at home, birds are just not very active on nice warm winter days. No need to scurry about for food. Food is fuel for winter bird "furnaces." On warmer days they adjust their metabolism so not as much food is needed.

OK! OK! Get to what you saw!!

Well, again, not as much as we had hoped but we did get some nice peeks at these *boreal* birds ... Evening Grosbeaks, Gray Jays, Ravens, Common and Hoary Redpolls and ... remember my opening line? ... a **Boreal Owl** and a **Great Gray Owl**!! There were other birds but these were special. Except for the redpolls, you have to come up here to see the rest. The nice thing for Marilyn was that the two owls were lifers. She never saw one before in her life. The Boreal Owl was the first boreal bird we saw on this trip! Pretty nice.

I was stunned to see the little Boreal Owl. They are only 10" tall and tend to be quite secretive. But this little rascal blew it's cover and had the audacity to sit right out in the open, right along the road. In fairness, I would have probably missed it had some other people not found it first, and were watching it as we drove up.

We adopted the old adage of ... Wanna see birds? Look for bird-watchers!

Well, alright then ... NFT



Our newly shingled roof covering some new R-50, blown-in insulation is not quite as showy as nature's autumnal canopy.



Restoring America's Wildlife

Carroll Henderson, former Supervisor of the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program writes in the MOU newsletter:

“On the national scale, there is a bill in Washington referred to as RAWA (Restoring America's Wildlife Act) that now has over a hundred Republicans and Democrats signed on as co-authors. This bill would allocate some of the funds derived from offshore oil leases in the Gulf of Mexico to states for wildlife conservation and recovery. Minnesota's share would be about \$26 million per year, including benefits for nongame wildlife. That is big! The bills are H.R 4647 and SF

3223. Your representatives in Congress and in the Senate need to hear from you on this. We will likely not get another chance like this for federal support of wildlife conservation in our lifetime.”

Calligraphy anyone?

Noreen Tyler needs someone who can do some calligraphy lettering at the Minnesota Division office. If you can help (or know someone who can) please call Noreen at (651) 221-0215.

**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 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.

Here's Judy Arnold's recipe for the delicious cake we enjoyed at the October meeting:

Pumpkin Cake

INGREDIENTS;

1 29 oz. can pumpkin
1 13 oz. can evap. milk
3 eggs
1/2 tsp. cloves
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 cup sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts
1 and a half cups butter or margarine
1 yellow cake mix

Blend first 8 ingredients and beat well. Pour into 9 x13 greased pan. Over this sprinkle one yellow cake mix. Then sprinkle on the walnuts. Drizzle melted butter on top.

Bake at 350 for 70-75 minutes.

Can be served warm or cool.

When cooled, you can top with cool whip or ice cream.

