



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
October 2026

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

October 2026

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Kate Holcomb, DNR:
Mussels in the Mississippi

November 2026

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Kevin Proescholdt:
Wilderness Watch - 100th Anniversary of
BWCAW first protections.

December 2026

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 No Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

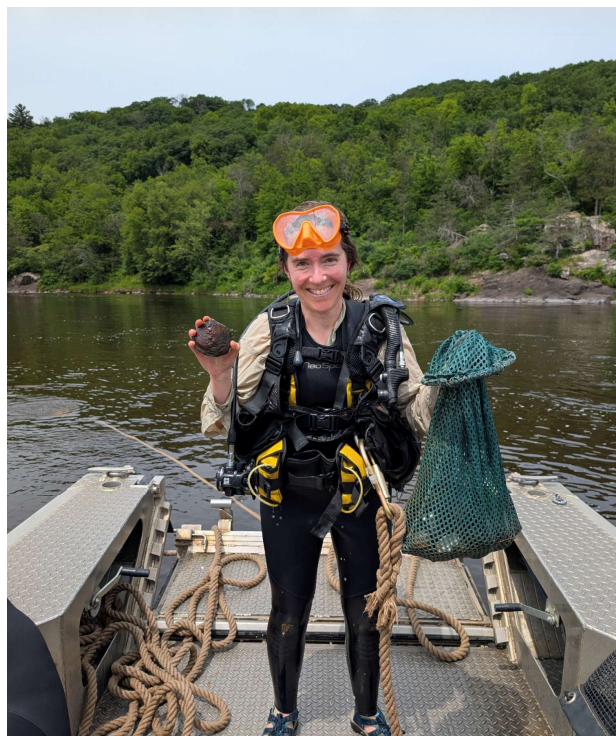
Memorial Gathering for Dick Brown

A Memorial Gathering will be held at Mississippi Crossings Event Center on Sunday November 1, 2026 (307 East River Parkway Champlin, MN 55316). Visitation will begin at 1 pm, with a presentation at 1:30 pm followed by a time of sharing until 4 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorials should be sent to:
Izaak Walton League of America – Breckenridge Chapter (8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444)

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday, October 27 7:30 pm
Kate Holcomb, DNR
Mussels in the Mississippi



Minnesota is home to a wide variety of interesting freshwater mussel species that provide numerous benefits to Minnesotans. Freshwater mussel populations have declined in Minnesota, but the Minnesota DNR's mussel team has been working to restore freshwater mussel populations for over 25 years. Kate Holcomb's presentation will elaborate on these topics and will also provide details about recent restoration work in the Mississippi River St. Anthony Falls Pool. Kate is the program supervisor for the DNR's Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs (CAMP), a small but mighty group of biologists dedicated to mollusk conservation in Minnesota.

In Memory: Dick Brown, Ike's Hall of Fame Award Winner



Dick Brown, age 99, passed peacefully on August 31, 2026 and will be deeply missed by family, relatives and friends.

Dick grew up in the 1930's, the son of a charter member of the South Minneapolis Chapter of the IWLA. He tagged along with his father to meetings there, growing up hunting and angling with his family. A carpenter by trade, he joined the North Minneapolis Chapter (now Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter) in 1982 and has been an active member ever since, including holding the office of Chapter President for several years and being a board member continuously for the past 42 years. He only retired from his role as Conservation Issues Chair at age 95. Not only was Dick active, he actually saved the Chapter from folding in the mid 1980s when its membership had dwindled. He convinced the remnant Board of Directors to vote (by only a majority of one) not to sell the Chapter House. He argued for a plan of action which has continued to this day, having monthly social / educational meetings with conservation speakers. His plan also included having annual pancake breakfasts, holiday season banquets with silent auctions to raise funds for conservation scholarships and a monthly publication named *Timberlines*. These traditions also have continued to this day. Under his

leadership, the Chapter grew its membership from 18 to 125 in the next five years. His work led to the Governor of Minnesota becoming a chapter member and holding his inaugural rehabilitated eagle release at the Chapter House.

The *Timberlines* publication has seldom lacked for copy as Dick has supplied conservation minded opinion pieces regularly. Often his articles have accompanied resolutions passed by the Chapter and later the State Division. Among issues benefiting from Dick's advocacy were the relationship between human population and environmental losses. Dick always championed efforts to slow and reduce the U.S. population to an environmentally sustainable level.

He led Chapter members to the State Capitol to lobby for conservation causes, conceiving the idea for "Save our Wetlands" signs they carried. The signs were carried to the Capitol steps promoting the passage of the Legacy Amendment. The important authors signed the original and it is proudly displayed on the main hall wall of the Chapter's Lodge. The Amendment provided a financial stream supporting Minnesota's natural environment.



In his local area, Dick fought developers successfully to save old growth oaks threatened by urban sprawl and highways. He organized a group to survey and identify one of the last remnants of oak savannah in the city limits and convinced the city to include it in their long-range plans for a city park.

Under his leadership, the Chapter became one of the most issues-active in Minnesota. He was among those who facilitated the sale (price \$100) by the University of Minnesota of the 19-acre Banfill Island in the Mississippi River to the Breckenridge Ike's Chapter which promised to preserve it as a wildlife sanctuary in perpetuity. The island is just across from the Chapter House and has served as a place where the Minnesota DNR studies eagles and other wildlife.

A carpenter, Dick spent countless hours at the Chapter House working on various projects, including constructing stairway trails down the steep river bluff to the Mississippi River. He supervised and helped construct our out-building while in his 80's after contributing to improving the Chapter House with log-cabin siding. He received the Tobin Award in 2013 for outstanding devotion and in recognition of his contributions in furthering the ideals of the League.



At the Minnesota Division level, Dick served as Director at Large for many years, regional vice president several years and VP of the Conservation Issues Committee for another number of years. He was known to Ikes across the State for his dedication to the organization and admired for his many contributions over the years. He and his wife Vera (who also served as an officer of the Chapter) received the Division Distinguished Service Award in 2007.



Conservation Minnesota recognized Dick as a 'Conservation Hero', noting he "worked aggressively to help preserve the Springbrook ature Center when development interests sought to de-establish the Center. He was actively involved in efforts to prevent drainage of several thousand wetland acres in the Rice

Creek Watershed. He was particularly skilled at recruiting others to get actively involved in conservation projects thereby multiplying his effectiveness. He also served for many years on the Board of Voyageurs National Park Association and recruited others to join him lobbying at the state capitol concerning conservation issues.” At age 97, Dick was out placing lawn signs in the yards of the many friends he had in Brooklyn Park, Champlin and Dayton in support of renewal of the designation of State Lottery funds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Dick walked his talk. He donated many acres of his own restored pine forestland to the State’s Environmental Land Trust for protection in perpetuity. He served as Scoutmaster to a Boy Scout Troop for many years and that troop still holds its annual weekend sleepovers in the Chapter House. He has been recognized by the BSA (1976 Scouter of the Year) and other conservation organizations over the years.

Dick said “my proudest achievement as an Ike was bringing about the designation of 38 acres on the Cannon River belonging to a closed IWLA chapter as a Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area, protecting the endangered endemic dwarf trout lily” (SNA designation is the highest level of protection for Minnesota public lands).

Reported by Tim Johnson



2026 National Convention of the IWLA

Reported by Ted Suss

The 2026 National convention of the IWLA is now in the history books.

To begin, I want to thank the many Ikes from across Minnesota and from almost every chapter for attending as delegates and alternates and as volunteers. Very nearly every chapter was represented in the delegate pool, and almost every delegate volunteered in some way. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to those members of your chapter who contributed so much to making the convention a success.

On behalf of the Minnesota Division I want to thank National IWLA President Scott Meyer and IWLA Executive Director Jared Mott for their leadership.

Perhaps I am biased, but I feel the convention was a resounding success with the highest attendance in many years, outstanding speakers, and smooth operations.

My greatest thanks, which I hope you share and will express to them, goes to convention planning co-chairs Joseph Barisonzi and Barb Hanson. It is a great relief to report that neither Joseph nor Barb killed the other in frustration. Along the way, Jim Davis found his way to the Ikes and joined the planning team as a fully engaged member and is equally deserving of our thanks.

Joseph, Minnesota Division First Vice President, worked very nearly full time for at least the last six months on convention planning. This effort, after several months of significant work which started almost immediately following the Division Board meeting at which John Siekmeier informed us that IWLA national wanted the Minnesota Division to host the convention. Joseph has spent hours on the phone with national staff, with potential sponsors, with potential speakers and anyone else any of us thought might contribute positively to the convention.

Barb Hanson, former Minnesota Division Treasurer and Minnesota Valley Treasurer, was every bit as

involved in the planning and decision making as Joseph and also took responsibility for purchasing everything from convention hall banners to food for the youth convention. I don't know if Barb put in quite as many hours as Joseph, but it was close. Barb is the *attention to detail person* and her unfailing and never-ending attention to detail was a big part of the smoothness with which the convention operated.

Jim Davis, another Minnesota Valley Board Member, joined the Ikes during convention planning and immediately took full responsibility for the graphics which gave our convention a modern look and feel. Jim, whom many of you do not know is a marketing professional who has held senior marketing positions with national brands and operated his own marketing agency. When I sat in on planning meetings, Jim's experience as a marketing professional became very obvious, his probing questions, which I paraphrase as; who is our audience?, and what exactly do you want communicated?, were invaluable in moving the planning forward successfully. On top of that, Jim personally did all of the design work on posters, banners, print and digital ads, and anything else that needed designing. I hope you were as impressed and pleased as I with the "look" of the convention.

Every Sunday for the last several months, Joseph, Barb, Jim, and others on an ad hoc basis met at the Minnesota Valley Chapter House for a National Convention planning meeting.

Minnesota Division National Director and Minnesota Valley Board Member Camille Morton was a very key player during the convention. Attendees saw her introducing several speakers and making important announcements. Camille worked with the Planning Committee, mostly Joseph, to develop a "script" that fleshed out the agenda. On many occasions during the convention, national leaders consulted with Camille to ask, "what's next". In many ways, Camille was the convention "show runner".

Minnesota Valley Chapter Vice President and State Director Griff Pugh was outstanding as a moderator of the Public Lands Panel. Griff was on the phone or met with each of the panelists numerous times to pull the panel together. Griff read most everything

any of the panelists wrote so that he could ask informed questions. Griff kept our three excellent panelists on point and respecting the clock. During that panel, I was sitting very close to the front in a position to view both the panel and the audience. To say the audience was glued to the stage would be a major understatement.

During the convention; Griff, who is the creator and host of the Young Ike Podcast, also conducted several in-depth interviews, with Ikes and guests on a variety of important subjects. These interviews will be included in future Young Ikes Podcasts. Griff was a very busy man during the convention.

We had volunteers from across Minnesota and across the country. Many of you were among that group. Riku Desai, another Minnesota Valley Board Member, worked many hours placing volunteers into their role, training volunteers when necessary, and was on-site during the entire convention to answer volunteer questions. Riku was also present and working shifts as a volunteer herself during the entire convention. Riku also helped set up the Kouba Gallery art show.

Minnesota Valley Board Member Sophia Peterson and Green Crew President Hannah Barisonzi led a hands-on Get-It-Done youth convention. Board Member Sam Clasen led one of the major projects which dug and lined with rock a trench to move water off our chapter driveway and diverted that water into a rain garden pool which the youth also dug. This project will control ravine erosion. While working, the youth learned about erosion, rain gardens, and their effect on water quality.

As they have done for years, Gary and Cherry Schwartz hosted a Minnesota Parade of States room serving root beer floats. It is wonderful that Gary and Cherry have kept this popular tradition alive for so many years. It was also refreshing to find a non-alcoholic beverage on offer.

New this year was a second Minnesota Parade of States room hosted by Willis Mattison and Steve Marking who were in period costume. What was truly special about their room was that Willis and Steve were dressed in character as Piscator (google it) and Will Dilg. The second truly special feature is a that they served a Wild Rice Porridge made with

Minnesota grown Wild Rice sourced from the White Earth Nation (indigenous).

One of the things that made the 2026 convention different from prior conventions and very special was the Kouba Gallery sponsored National Art Show. Jeff Berg served as the curator of the show and spent much time working with Ike artists from across the United States to secure participation and make the show truly national in scope. I believe artists from 13 states presented their work and several pieces of art were sold. Linda Jensen may not have been listed as curator, but she was working every step of the way and was very instrumental in setting up and taking down the show and working with the artists. Jeff and Linda are Minnesota Valley Chapter members and lead our Kouba Galley Committee.

So many other people, such as Brian Raney who coordinated Minnesota Salads for the Parade of States and Bill Lesch who coordinated a Lead Ammo and Tackle workshop, contributed greatly and deserve our thanks. Unfortunately, I cannot think of everybody who contributed, but if they helped, I apologize for the omission of their name and thank them.

Thank you to everyone for helping make the 2026 IWLA convention a success.



Riverbank Stairs

By Josh Wildt

Through some individual/team effort the north stairs have been patched up and are suitable for use. Josh pulled the last barrier down. Thanks to Tim for finding and digging in the bottom timber and Jerry for the rebar to pin it in.

We still recommend that a descent to the river be done with caution, as erosion continues.



From the Board of Directors Meeting September 8, 2026

Karen Ostenso was unanimously approved as Scholarship chairperson, which she is taking over from Jim Arnold. Karen described division of the work into two parts, the first soliciting candidates and selecting winners and the second increasing and managing investment of the endowment. Steve Schaust and Sue Schmidt will concentrate on the latter and Karen and Mary Thelan will focus on the former. The Board wants to recognize Jim's wonderful work over the many years he has steered our scholarship program.

Wendy's hand injury will preclude her fulfilling secretary role for some time. Volunteers would be welcome. Substitutes need to be found for the rest of the year.

Like Tigers?

Here is a link to John Rust's presentation, "Where Spirit meets the Wild," to the Linnean Society of London.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC6GSSUwnDE>



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 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.

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter
Membership Application:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Birthdate _____

Dues are subject to change.

Please make check payable to: IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Membership Dues:

Individual:	75.00
Family:	99.00
Student:	43.00

Mail to: Barbara Franklin, 8840 West River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55444