



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
February 2024



www.breckenridgeikes.org

Coming Events

February 2024

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

Carrol Henderson:

40 Years with Non-Game Wildlife

This is also Precinct Caucus Night in Minnesota

If you cannot attend your Precinct Caucus on February 27 at 7 p.m. and still wish to participate in your party's process, simply write a letter to your party chair stating that you are not able to attend but wish to:

- #1 Be nominated and possibly elected as a precinct officer or a delegate or alternate to a higher level convention.
- #2 Submit resolutions for caucus approval by attaching a Resolution Form.

List your name and address and give this letter to the party chair before the caucus or have a member of your precinct bring your letter to the meeting on Feb 27.

March 2024

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 **Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Solomon David: Modern Conservation
Insights from Ancient Fishes

April 2024

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 **Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Peter Sorenson: Invasive Asian Carp in
Minnesota

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday February 27, 7:30 PM

Carrol Henderson – 40 Years

with Nongame Wildlife



National Conservation Awards were given to two of our Chapter's members at this year's national convention. In Carrol Henderson, the Ikes have a determined leader with a successful history of fighting for the protection of our non-game wildlife. He serves as an inspiration to further action and by authoring many books on enhancing wildlife habitat, he has provided us with guides for doing so.

Carrol, a retired wildlife biologist (from the Minnesota DNR after 44 years), will share his experiences on many non-game wildlife conservation causes. During his decades at the Minnesota DNR, he led successful efforts to restore the bald eagle, trumpeter swan, peregrine falcon, bluebird and river otter. His efforts have sometimes been thwarted, as they were last year when a unique heron rookery near Rochester he had advocated to protect was destroyed by developers. Yet he keeps working steadfastly on measures that further the preservation of our wildlife.

Breckenridge Chapter Board Meeting Highlights January 9, 2023

Conservation Issues/Legislative update:

- The DNR Commissioner signed a designation order for a new Scientific and Natural Area named Purrington Prairie SNA which will protect the best remnant population of the threatened Prairie Bush Clover in Minnesota
- Rough Fish legislation: DNR wants to set limits in expedited manner.
- A motion was passed unanimously to request amendment of National IWLA Conservation Policies to further restrict lead ammunition. The motion has since been adopted by the MN Division. (See pages 6-8)

This year he has been a leader in our Minnesota IWLA Division's work group on lead. Carrol has been tireless since his retirement in spreading the word for non-toxic ammunition and fishing tackle. Even though he achieved an earlier goal with the passage of a state law and then a federal ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting, he has run up against strong opposition since. His compelling testimony on loon, eagle and swan deaths due to lead poisoning was instrumental this year in convincing Minnesota lawmakers to authorize one million dollars for public outreach and education on the merits of switching to non-toxic fishing tackle. Currently he is involved in an effort to prevent the DNR from proceeding with plans to kill cormorants on Egret Island SNA with lead ammunition.

Henderson is the retired DNR Nongame Wildlife Program supervisor who served in that capacity from 1977 to 2018. Prior to that he was the assistant wildlife refuge manager at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Refuge near Watson, Minnesota. He has also been an avid hunter, taxidermist, outdoor writer, and wildlife photographer.

He has participated in restoration projects for bald eagles, trumpeter swans, peregrine falcons, river otters. He has coordinated research efforts involving loons and contamination resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that resulted in a \$7.7 million settlement for loon conservation in Minnesota including funding for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to lead a Get the Lead Out effort in Minnesota.

Since his retirement, Carrol Henderson has been involved in education efforts for hunters and anglers to understand the impact of lead poisoning caused by continued use of lead in fishing tackle (small jigs and sinkers) and in hunting ammunition on federally protected wildlife including common loons, trumpeter swans, bald eagles, and other raptors. Nontoxic fishing jigs and sinkers and hunting ammunition is increasingly available and its acceptance and use by hunters and anglers reflects a positive image for them as conservationists.

*** THE HOLIDAY PARTY ***

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

- Broadway Bar & Pizza ----- 525 Edinburgh Center DR, Brooklyn Park 55444
- Dairy Queen----- Champlin and Anoka
- Dos Hermandos----- 1408 85th Ave, Brooklyn Park 55444
- Liquor Barrel----- 8520 Edinburgh Center Dr, Brooklyn Park 55444
- Hudy's Café ----- 11350 Aquila Dr. N., Champlin,
- Love That Oive ----- 13551 Grove Drive, Maple Grove 55311
- Papa John's Pizza ----- 4610 85th Ave, Brooklyn Park 55443
- Noble Parkway Mobil ----- 9500 Noble Parkway, Brooklyn Park 55443
- Three Squares Restaurant ----- 12690 Arbor Lakes Pkwy, Maple Grove 55369
- Trader Joe's ----- 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 auction items:

Judy Arnold Barbara Franklin Jaci & Rex Hale Lori & Tim Johnson Karen Ostenso
Diane Sannes Sue Schmidt Melissa Sonnenberg Jerry Steele

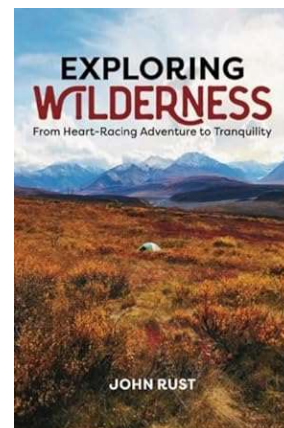
Special thanks to:



Carol Knutson of Spectacular Catering for providing a delicious meal, the many folks who provided desserts and Tom Ward who again played his dulcimer during the social hour

The silent auction raised more than \$1,330 which will help provide \$1,000 scholarships for local students who have a strong interest in, and a commitment to the environment.

It was wonderful to wind up the evening with John Rust, our former chapter and state president, available to share pictures and information from his recent book: *Exploring Wilderness!* (Our new Minnesota Division President is John Siekmeier and our new Treasurer is Barb Hanson)



We were festive in spite of no snow

Thanks to Dianne Sannes and Wendy Steele for the photos



Opinion: The President and The High Price Of Food

In this time of political turmoil (2024) there is much to blame about. But there should be less than is being done. Our President is being blamed for the rise of food prices by political opponents. But are there reasons out of his control for the higher prices?

Let's try a few: Our Nation's economy is based on capitalism, and to me that means supply and demand. Let's try first on the supply: Our Nation for the last 3 years has been plagued with floods and drought. California and others have had both in the same year! This causes a shortage of food supply.

Ground water is diminishing in many areas of the West and Midwest causing rationing of irrigation. Some wells have gone dry. At the same time many rivers and reservoirs have become very low on water, especially in the South and Midwest. In some parts of the West allocations of the amount of water are being altered. I believe agriculture is getting less and cities, tribes and wildlife reserves may receive more of what is available. So much for reasons for lack of water supply and therefore affecting the food supply.

Now the demand: Our Nation is proud of the fact we are "feeding the world" (and so was Ukraine before war broke out). Cargill, Archer Daniels and other large export groups send billions of tons of foodstuffs to other Nations.

The terrific influx of immigrants that need to be fed is another draw on our food supply, and especially in

Minnesota and some other states there is increase in feeding school children, the poor and homeless. So much for the demand.

There could be other reasons not directly related to supply and demand: Labor may have raised wages; packaging and distributing firms may have raised prices and there may be other factors such as farmer's profits increasing, etc.

Therefore, the political charge that our President is responsible for the higher cost of food seems irresponsible rhetoric. Am I missing something?

Dick Brown

February Haiku

From John Moriarty's
*one day and three lines at a time:
a year of nature haiku*

Silent silhouette
Gliding across dormant fields
Snowy owl hunting



“Smokey the Beaver”

Karen Ostenso calls our attention to a radio broadcast she heard about an assistant professor of geography at the University of Minnesota named Emily Fairfax. She is an ecohydrologist and beaver researcher. In 2020, she and a colleague published a paper titled "Smokey the Beaver."

Working with Google, they developed an algorithm that identifies beaver dams on aerial and satellite images. Looking for them while hiking is very difficult, as well as incomplete. After knowing which areas have beaver dams, they looked for vegetation. They compared the existence of such

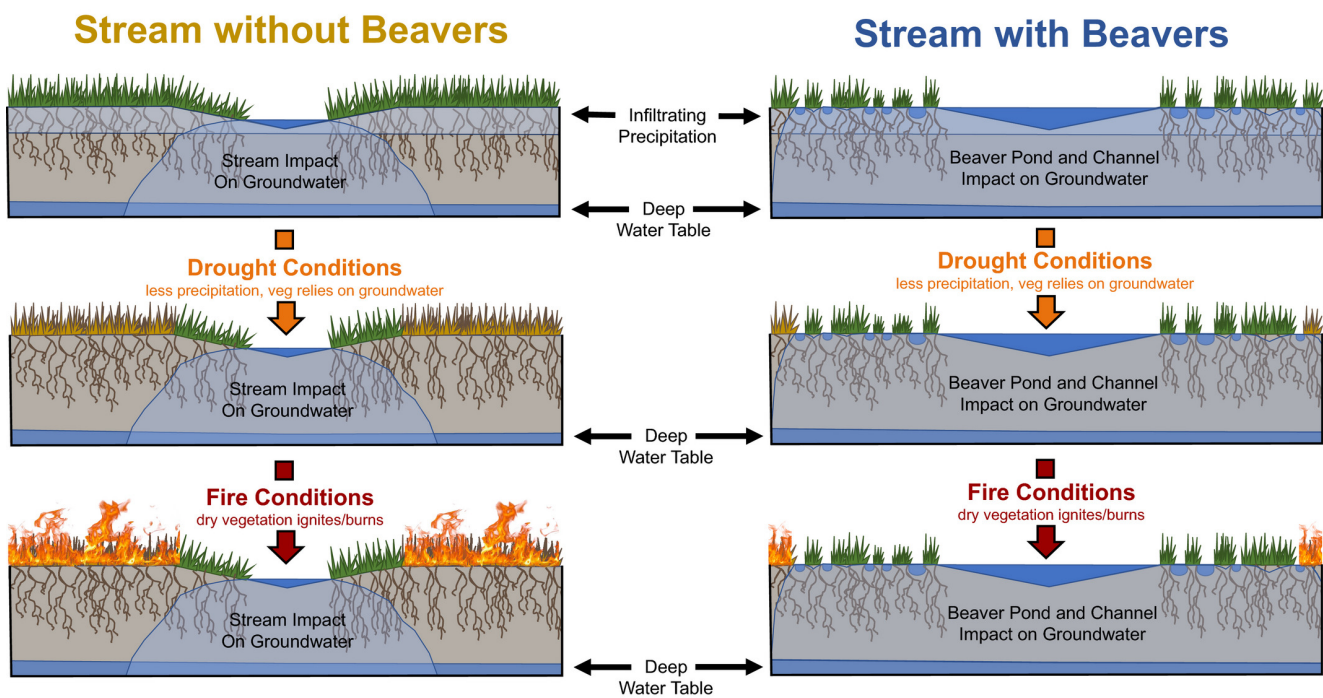
vegetation in the areas with and without beaver damming during wildfires in California.

The “beaver-dammed riparian corridors are relatively unaffected by wildfire when compared to similar areas without beaver damming.” They store water on the surface and underground. Spongy areas are created from which plants drink during drought.

People have had a troublesome history with beavers and the population has shrunk. This professor has written several other relevant articles easily found online.

Here is an abstract of the article she refers to:

Beaver dams are gaining popularity as a low-tech, low-cost strategy to build climate resiliency at the landscape scale. They slow and store water that can be accessed by riparian vegetation during dry periods, effectively protecting riparian ecosystems from droughts. Whether or not this protection extends to wildfire has been discussed anecdotally but has not been examined in a scientific context. We used remotely sensed Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data to compare riparian vegetation greenness in areas with and without beaver damming during wildfire. We include data from five large wildfires of varying burn severity and dominant landcover settings in the western United States in our analysis. We found that beaver-dammed riparian corridors are relatively unaffected by wildfire when compared to similar riparian corridors without beaver damming. On average, the decrease in NDVI during fire in areas without beaver is 3.05 times as large as it is in areas with beaver. However, plant greenness rebounded in the year after wildfire regardless of beaver activity. Thus, we conclude that, while beaver activity does not necessarily play a role in riparian vegetation post-fire resilience, it does play a significant role in riparian vegetation fire resistance and refugia creation.



Resolution 2024.1

Get the Lead Out of Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

The science is clear: There is no safe level of exposure to lead. The Minnesota Department of Health states:

“Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. Drinking, breathing, eating or touching food, water and other materials that contain lead can damage the brain, kidneys, and nervous system. In children, lead can also slow development or cause learning, behavior, and hearing problems.”

[<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html#:~:text=Coming%20in%20contact%20with%20lead,are%20at%20the%20highest%20risk>. Last visited: November 9, 2023.]

“CDC also recognizes that there is no safe level of exposure to lead, and the effects of lead exposure appear to be irreversible. Therefore, primary prevention, or preventing lead exposure before it can start, is crucial.” [Minnesota Department of Health, “2022 Blood Lead Surveillance Report”, page 4.]

Unregulated lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle – Public Health Impacts:

“A 2023 report by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture documented that over 9% of all venison packages at Minnesota food shelves tested positive for lead. If this percentage of lead-contaminated venison is comparable for venison retained by Minnesota deer-hunters, they may have provided over 500,000 pounds of lead-tainted venison to family and friends.” [Carrol L. Henderson, retired DNR nongame wildlife program biologist, 1977-2018; Patrick T. Redig, DVM Ph.D., director emeritus of The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota; Julia Ponder, DVM MPH, Former director of The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota; Brian J. Hiller, Ph.D., wildlife toxicologist, professor of Wildlife Biology, Bemidji State University Steve K. Windels, Ph.D., wildlife biologist, Northern Wildlife Consultants, International Falls. Commentary: Another take on USFWS rule on refuge lead uses. *Outdoor News*, November 22, 2023.]

“Lead-based ammunition is likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead knowingly discharged into the environment in the United States.” [“Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment - A Consensus Statement of Scientists, Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology,” UC Santa Cruz. 2013.] Lead fishing tackle only adds to this toxic problem.

Shooting Ranges – Another Source of Unregulated Lead:

“... firing ranges, regardless of type and user classification, currently constitute a significant and unmanaged public health problem ...” [Laidlaw et al., “Lead Exposure at Firing Ranges: A Review.” *Environmental Health* (2017) 16:34.]

“Shooters are exposed to lead when firing lead bullets. The bullet primer is about 35% lead stypnate and lead dioxide (also known as lead peroxide). When a shooter fires a bullet, lead particles and fumes originating from the primer discharge at high pressures from the gun barrel, very close to the shooter. Shooters are also exposed to lead from the bullet itself as some parts disintegrate into fragments due to misalignments in the gun barrel. The extreme heat during the firing of a bullet results in some vapourisation of these lead fragments.” [Laidlaw, et al., “People who shoot risk unhealthy levels of lead exposure.” *The Conversation*. Published: April 5, 2017.]

Unfortunately, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) states: “Operating shooting ranges are not required to remove shooting materials that fall on land on the range.” [MPCA Fact Sheet “Outdoor Shooting Ranges.” April 2015/w-hw4-14.]

The result can be contamination of the soil, groundwater, surface water, along with airborne particles.

Benefits of Legislation: The Izaak Walton League of America, an organization with a long-standing reputation as conservationists and ethical hunters and anglers, should go on record supporting legislation to require non-toxic ammunition and non-toxic fishing tackle for all circumstances. The benefits of such legislation include:

1. Protection of the health of hunters, anglers, and shooting sports enthusiasts and elimination of “take home” lead to their families.
2. Protection of the health of workers who make ammunition and fishing tackle and elimination of “take home lead” to their families.
3. Protection of the public at large from the toxic effects of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle in the air, soil, and water.
4. Protection of wildlife from the toxic effects of lead.
5. Protection of human and environmental health by eliminating the toxic life cycle of lead – from mining through disposal.
6. Enhancement of the reputation of hunters, anglers, and shooting sports participants as “conservationists.”
7. Increase in public participation in hunting and fishing, inspired by the knowledge that they, their families, and other living creatures risk no exposure to lead.

Any legislation would inevitably include an effective date, to be negotiated during the legislative process to allow a reasonable time for manufacturers, businesses, and consumers to convert to non-toxic alternatives. Therefore, it would be premature to state an effective date at this time.

Consistent with the Minnesota Division’s approval (October 28, 2023) of the Minnesota “Get the Lead Out Act of 2024”:

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America requests the following amendments to the document entitled “Izaak Walton League of America – 2023 Conservation Policies”:

1. Page 92 – Amend paragraph “I) Non-Toxic Shot and Fishing Weights” to read as follows:

“I) Non-Toxic Ammunition ~~Shot~~ and Fishing Tackle ~~Weights~~

1) Because of the serious problem of lead ammunition ~~shot~~ poisoning of wildlife and its adverse effects on human health, waterfowl and secondary poisoning of other birds, the League supports legislation that would prohibit the possession and use of lead ammunition and the possession and use of lead fishing tackle, after a reasonable time to convert to non-toxic alternatives. ~~has supported a phased conversion to non-toxic shot for hunting migratory waterfowl.~~

2) Recognizing the toxicity of ~~some forms of~~ lead and its detrimental ~~potential~~ impact on wildlife and human health, the League encourages:

a) ~~The use of non-toxic ammunition and fishing lures and weights in areas where lead is demonstrated to be a problem.~~

a) b) Manufacturers of ammunition and fishing tackle to develop environmentally-friendly and cost-effective alternatives to lead ammunition projectiles and shot, and fishing lures and weights, as soon as possible, even before the effective date of the legislation.

b) c) Users of these products to take advantage of these alternatives as they become available, even before the effective date of the legislation.

2. Page 94 - Add a paragraph 2 under the section entitled "M. Shooting Ranges" to read as follows:

2) The League supports legislation that:

(a) prohibits the use and possession of lead ammunition on all shooting ranges;

(b) requires the possession and use of non-toxic ammunition only; and

(c) provides educational materials regarding the toxic effects of lead ammunition and non-toxic ammunition alternatives.

(d) establishes an effective date of the legislation, negotiated during the legislative process, to allow a reasonable time for manufacturers, businesses, and consumers to convert to non-toxic alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Minnesota Izaak Walton League Reaffirms its "Lead Fishing Tackle and Hunting Ammunition" Resolution of 2019, and amends that Resolution to also include the language on shooting ranges recommended above for page 94 of the national IWLA 2023 Conservation Policies.

References

Minnesota Department of Health (November 9, 2023)

[https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html#:~:text=C
oming%20in%20contact%20with%20lead,are%20at%20the%20highest%20risk](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html#:~:text=Coming%20in%20contact%20with%20lead,are%20at%20the%20highest%20risk)

Izaak Walton League of America – 2023 Conservation Policies

https://www.iwla.org/docs/default-source/about-iwla/2023-policy-book.pdf?sfvrsn=d9a06c0c_1

Respectfully submitted by Tim Johnson and Tom Casey, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Adopted on January 27, 2024 during the annual meeting of the MN Division of the Izaak Walton League of America.

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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.



Growing up in Columbus, Ohio, Dudley Edmondson says he found solace in the outdoors. Green spaces provided an escape from city life and the tension in his household. He didn't have to worry about social norms or how he was being perceived by others—in nature, he was free.

Edmondson says that for people of color, this sense of true freedom can only be found in wilderness spaces. “When you’re sitting on a bench in a Starbucks, or in your work cubicle, or walking down a busy city street, you have to be a certain way because society demands it,” he says. “When you’re in the wilderness, none of that applies. You can be whoever you want to be. ... The fish in the creek don’t care what color you are, they’re not going to call the cops on you.”



Despite this, Edmondson still felt like an outlier. “I didn’t know anybody like me when I was growing up in my neighborhood. None of the adults or kids were connected to nature. ... At one time, I felt I was the only Black person who enjoyed nature and the outdoors,” he says. “Spending my childhood and early adulthood not knowing that there were people like me out there, I finally decided I wanted to go and find some of these people.”

Now based in Duluth, the birder, photographer, public speaker, and author spent four years conducting interviews across the country for his book *Black & Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places*. The book profiles African Americans with nontraditional outdoor vocations and hobbies to create a set of “outdoor role models” for the Black community.