



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
December 2023

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



## Coming Events

### December 2023

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 No Social Educational meeting

### January 2024

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 21 **Annual Holiday Party** 4 pm, Dinner 5 pm,  
Program 6 pm:  
John Rust: *Exploring Wilderness*

### February 2024

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

## Breckenridge Chapter Board Meeting Highlights November 14, 2023

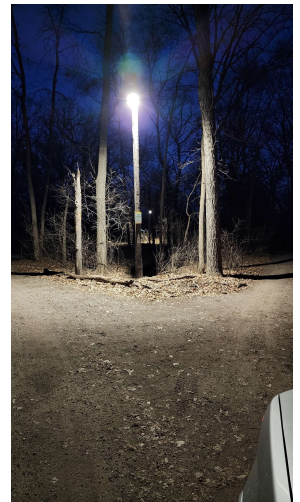
- We have a new water heater due to a leak in the old one thanks to Tim
- New outdoor lighting for our safety and security has been installed thanks to Jerry Steele, et.al.
- A new regulation has been added to the rental agreement contract: NO GLITTER may be used on the grounds at all because of the difficulty of cleaning it up.
- Steve Brown blew away our leaves this year. Thanks Steve!

## The Silent Auction Raises Scholarship Funds

In 2024 our chapter will continue awarding scholarships to local students pursuing degrees in environmental and conservation careers. This program is entering its twenty-fifth year and has awarded 126 scholarships.

The silent auction has become an important fundraiser for our Chapter's scholarship fund. At this year's holiday party, January 21, we will again have many unique items donated by our members as well as a number of products, services and gift certificates donated by local merchants. Be sure to arrive early to get a good look at all the items. Bidding will start at 4 pm and continue until 6 pm.

If you would like to donate an item, or if you know of a nearby business that would be willing to make a donation, contact Jim or Judy Arnold (763-560-8972, [jjarnold@q.com](mailto:jjarnold@q.com)) or Lori Johnson (612-720-8337). Items can be brought to the Chapter House on Saturday morning January 20 during set up or by 4 pm on January 19.



**WLA Breckenridge Chapter**

# **Holiday Party**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**\$25 suggested donation**

**Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund**

**4 p.m. – Social Hour**

**Silent Auction**

**Hors d'oeuvres**

**5 p.m. – Dinner**

**Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering**

**Bring desserts to share!**

**6 p.m. – Program**

**John Rust**

***Exploring Wilderness***

**Please RSVP to  
Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)**

**Call or text**

**763-242-0432**

***Everyone Welcome***

## Opinion: The Nature of Animals

History shows us that wars happen frequently, if not periodically. It seems inevitable they will occur again. In fact, they already have in 2022 and 2023, in Russia, Israel and various parts of Africa. A prophet quoted from the Christian Bible is supposed to have said “There will be wars and more wars.”

One need not be a genuine or mystical prophet to have predicted that. If one casually observes nature one can see such reasoning. Nearly all mammals, insects, birds and many types of fish are genetically territorial. The human mammal is probably one of the most extreme examples. If you don't believe it, consider the following examples:

How many people would tolerate a half dozen strangers camping on your front lawn for a week or more?

Who would welcome people in the neighborhood creating a path through your yard as a shortcut to the neighborhood store?

How many fences have been built to keep strangers, dogs or other animals out?

How about a family of six knocking on your door, wanting to stay for the night because they do not like motels?

How about the farmer who posts his land because he does not want hunters or picnickers trespassing on his land? He wants privacy!

Why are some countries and political groups against immigration?

Why are opposing religions often at great odds over how others must live?

Why do cities compete with other cities over economic dominance; and States compete with another for political and economic dominance?

Why are countries striving for economic dominance over others?

Why are there wars over expansion of boundaries?

Why are there boundaries?

What is the reason for all of this and more? Because mankind is the most territorial of all animals. It is in our genetics and does not take a Biblical philosopher, prophet or wizard to forecast “there will be wars and more wars.”

Territorialism is genetically implanted in our “souls”.

*Dick Brown*



# Eagle Cam & Nongame Wildlife Program

*Reported by Tim Johnson*

In November we had the pleasure of hearing a presentation given by Lori Naumann, leader of the Nongame Wildlife Program's communication and marketing efforts. She controls the DNR EagleCam from the same laptop she brought that night to project her presentation. We started by learning the history of the EagleCam over the last decade, up to the breaking of the branch with the nest (estimated to weigh over a ton) this last spring and on to DNR efforts to find a new nest to follow in the future. The pair of eagles who lost their nest last year are still in the area and sometimes are seen by the camera (still in its old location). This pair successfully evicted the original two a few years ago. The original pair (eagles mate for life and generally live around twenty years in the wild) probably established another nest. Birds generally keep breeding until they die.

Lori's interview with MPR in which she related some of the same interesting stories we heard can still be read at

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/02/05/dnr-eaglecam-celebrates-10-years>

These include the fact that only about half of all eagle chicks survive the first year, the youngest in a nest facing the worst odds. Unfortunately, this hard truth can be difficult to watch, causing many viewers to call for intervention which is against the program's policy. In the past, one time there were so many calls to intervene by rescuing a chick, that at the direction of the DNR Commissioner, they finally did so in order to avoid having the issue reach the desk of the Governor.

Placement of a camera on a new nest is still a work in progress. Access to electricity (solar powered is considered too unreliable) is one constraint and ownership of the land another. As soon as the proper location is decided upon, the public should be able to follow the new nest's progress. On average, bald eagles in our area lay their eggs sometime in February, up to three per nest.

Lori addressed many questions about the eagles such as the awful toll taken by toxic Pb fragments in deer gut piles.

Poisoning of our State bird, the common loon, by Pb sinkers was also mentioned in discussion of the Program's "get the lead out" education efforts.

It should be noted that our Chapter member, Carrol Henderson, former supervisor of the Nongame Wildlife Program is leading the push to ban toxic ammunition and fishing tackle in Minnesota.



Lori expanded the discussion to the other work of the Nongame Program and ways in which they support the thousands of native species we have, especially those which are considered threatened or endangered. The DNR's Nongame Program website is a good one with tons of information, including the current list of vulnerable wildlife. She mentioned ways to support the Program, including the tax form checkoff and the Critical Habitat license plates available to support Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) with dollars for restoration of habitats. The newest one of these plates pictures our State bee and butterfly, two of the many endangered pollinators which the Ikes are in the fight to protect.



## Opinion: The Complexity of Decisions

There is a great preponderance of animosity between environmentalists, the mining industry and local businesses over the possibility of mining for precious metals in or near the MN Boundary Waters Wilderness. The issue is over metals needed to fight global warming, provide local jobs, components for batteries vs the pollution of lakes, streams, the watershed district, wild rice and the general habitat for species both flora and fauna. It's a dirty shame that politicians and the government will have to make this choice.

It seems ironic that the only reason we have the BWCAW is because the area is too rocky for agriculture. Pioneers and settlers found the area too difficult to cultivate. Many crops did not do well in the cold northeast corner of Minnesota where the topsoil is relatively shallow. Of course, the natural beauty of the landscape with its streams, beautiful forests and placid lakes led early environmentalists to fight hard politically for the area's protection. They won the fight, but not until a considerable part of the area was logged off.

What is ironic and disappointing is that there are very few places in this country where these metals are found. And these few places are also environmentally sensitive. Streams in the Pacific N.W. where contamination from mines would destroy the salmon industry and would have other environmental concerns. I believe there are areas in the S.W. and S.E. United States that face similar problems.

Humanitarians are against purchasing these metals from other countries because of the horribly disturbing labor practices there. We also do not want to be dependent on countries that may turn aggressive. We do need these precious metals unless we can find substitutes for them in other forms.

What is disconcerting to me is that these important ingredients cannot be found in common corn or soybean fields where streams, wetlands and lakes are already contaminated, and the scenery is little to brag about.

We must not forget that if there is a third world war, these precious metals will be needed more than ever, so will all our resources and manpower! It is up to our government to make the wisest decision and I fear the environmental consequences.

*Dick Brown*



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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](mailto: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.

## December Haiku

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

*Night time visitors*  
*Normally unseen nor heard*  
*Snow records the tracks*

