



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
September 2019

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



## COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Mary Karius, Wetland Health Evaluation Project

### OCTOBER 2019

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
DNR – Endangered Species

Social/Educational meeting  
Tuesday, September 24, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Mary Karius

Clean Water Challenge

Monitoring the streams and wetlands in our community is something the Ikes across our nation have been doing for a long time (Clean Water Challenge) and members of our Breckenridge Chapter have been talking about getting more involved in this ourselves. We have scheduled an important speaker, Mary Karius, to address our September Social/Education meeting on this subject.

Mary is an Environmentalist working with Hennepin County Environment and Energy where she coordinates the county wetlands and stream monitoring programs (Wetland Health Evaluation Program). The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House of the Izaak Walton League of America, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. Light refreshments after the presentation.



## Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes September 10, 2019

A quorum was present: Steve, Barb, Karen, Tim, Dennis, Jim and Dick attended. Wendy and Jerry Steele were invited guests.

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.*

Steve is busy this week filing our 501c3 (non-profit organization) papers.

Karen agreed to arrange breakfast for the Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> State Division meeting we are hosting at the Chapter House. We discussed lunch but decided to save detailed discussions until next month's meeting.

Dick announced Steve Morse from MEP has agreed to speak himself or arrange for someone else from the organization to address us at our October meeting. Lois Norrgard of the Northstar Chapter of the Sierra Club, Forests and Wildlands Committee has offered to find someone to present for our November education meeting. Jim reminded us that Darby Nelson's latest book is due out soon and that we should ask the Nelsons to present in the next few months. We agreed that Larry should contact Siah St. Clair about presenting for our January holiday party.

Steve was contacted by the City of Brooklyn Park about having another bow hunt on Banfill Island this fall and gave our permission.

Steve reminded members that we will soon need to have an election for Board members whose terms are expiring.

Barb reminded us that the Timberlines deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month from now on.

Building and Grounds:

- Sanding and staining of the shed is complete. The sanding of the Chapter House siding is still underway.
- Dennis, Steve, Jerry and Tim will work on building a guy-wire for the yard-light pole and putting up the new fixture.
- An estimate has been submitted for a new furnace. The Board will be getting another estimate as well. We hope to have the new furnace installed soon.
- Plans to treat a patch of dense buckthorn on Banfill Island are underway. The National Park Service has offered to help. A private party has contacted us about using goats to attack the buckthorn. We will investigate further.
- Champlin-Park HS will not be conducting its gun safety/buckthorn pull class at our Chapter House this year but they have asked if we would come to the high school to talk to students about remediation of the buckthorn around their pond.
- Jim will contact Tom Reid about cutting some dead trees and branches on our property in November.

## Kernza Basics

*Karen Ostenso*

Intermediate wheatgrass is a prairie plant that has been used for forage for many years in the western United States and Canada. It originally came from Asia Minor and Europe in 1907, but attempts to breed it for human consumption began in 1983. Rodale Institute, a non-profit that supports research into organic farming, spent years inter-breeding intermediate wheatgrass and in 2001 turned its results over to The Land Institute, which is a non-profit in Salina, KS, dedicated to sustainable agriculture. They eventually trade-marked Kernza and they continue to trying to hybridize it to produce more usable characteristics.

Low seed yield has been a disadvantage, but has increased over recent generations of breeding. Its primary advantage is that it is a perennial, so use of fertilizers, pesticides and fossil fuel for planting is much reduced compared to traditional wheat farming. Additionally, it sends roots and rhizomes about 10 feet deep, so soil erosion is mitigated and soil health is improved. It is less vulnerable to fungal disease than the wheat we currently use.

Several experimental sites have been planted and have produced harvestable crops. Increased yield and seed size are needed to make it a widely viable agricultural product. It needs full sun and does not tolerate temperatures below -38°F Efforts are underway to find the best locations for it to grow.

The University of Minnesota is involved in looking for improved yield and ways for it to be used as a comestible. General Mills has granted the University a half million dollars for their studies. They have also produced some dry cereals using Kernza. Birchwood Café in Minneapolis has successfully sold pastries with it as an ingredient. It is not available in large enough quantities for constant availability at the restaurant. A noodle company and a brewery in Minnesota have used it in their products.

Even though Kernza is often referred to as intermediate wheat grass, it is a separate species because of the many generations of interbreeding. More improvements need to be made before it is

widely cultivated. The researchers are optimistic about the nutritional and environmental benefits that are expected.

*The Curious Reporter  
(aka Karen Ostenso)*

*Information was gleaned from "Best Food Facts" website, "The Land Institute" website, Wikipedia, "The Nation" website, and the "Rodale Institute" website.*



## Climate Action Event

Anoka Area Climate Action is going to have an event on Tuesday September 17, 7-8:30 pm at Anoka United Church of Christ. The presentation will be “Climate Change and Water Quality on the Upper Mississippi River”. The presenter will be KathiJo Jankowski, a Research Ecologist with the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center.

Kathi Jo is the Principal Investigator for the Water Quality Component of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program's Long-term Resource Monitoring Element. She coordinates water quality monitoring and research on the Upper Mississippi in coordination with several federal and state agencies. Her research aims to understand how land use and climate change impact ecosystem processes in large rivers. She is specifically interested in nutrient and carbon cycling, ecosystem metabolism and food web ecology and has worked in freshwater systems from the boreal zone to the tropics.

## Opinion

### Looking back, not always good; Looking ahead, might be worse

In June's letter I mentioned the terrible environmental impact Highway 35W left on my old neighborhood, between Nicollet and Clinton Avenues, between 58<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Streets S, Minneapolis. We lived there from 1927-1945. Upon going back about 10 years ago the neighborhood was a totally different and environmentally degraded area. Not going there again, as I prefer my memory's version.

In a July letter I mentioned the Rum River site where we had a cabin near the old Gillespie Bridge on Anoka Highway 22 (Viking Blvd.). The area as mentioned, an Oak Savanna type pasture with open wooded area and various wildlife. We were there from 1937 until about 1952. After I wrote the article we decided to go back and see what changes there might be.

We drove in on what was our old easement access, now a private drive accessing 2 private homes. We had difficulty determining where the old cabin stood. Not only was the cabin gone but so was the roughly 60 acre Oak Savanna woodland! The surrounding farm was sold a few years after we left the area and apparently was grazed no more; we heard it had been bought by speculators planning future development.

You can't imagine what change approximately 67 years of unchecked vegetative growth can bring to a beautiful Oak Savanna area! Trees, brush and Buckthorn so thick the view is scarcely 40 yards. Of course, if left alone for another 70 years or so it may revert to native woodland of a different kind of beneficial environment, but development will prevent that.

I have lived too long and my memory is too vivid to appreciate these kinds of environmental changes. That is the reason we placed our 240 acres in Becker County (NW MN) into preservation mode through the Minnesota Land Trust.

My optimism fades when I wonder what changes our ever expanding population will bring in the

future. Can anyone agree that we need to find ways to stop it? Even to reduce it?

*Dick Brown*

## New buckthorn plans Jim Arnold

For many years we have been pulling buckthorn on our Chapter House property. In recent years the Outdoor Adventures class at Champlin Park High School has done much of this work. This fall we plan to reverse our buckthorn plans by helping Matt Hendrickson's Outdoor Adventures class pull a heavy patch of buckthorn near the pond at the high school. The date is yet to be determined, but watch next month's *Timberlines* for exact day and times during the last week of October. It would be great to have a good group of Ikes volunteers there to help pay back the school for their help over the years. Matt also hopes to organize a group for a weekend paddle to the IWL's Banfill Island to pull buckthorn.

In addition, we hope to work with the University of Minnesota on a citizen science project on buckthorn called "Project Cover Up." This study would involve a two year study on a 30' x 40' plot on Chapter House property. The experimental plots will hopefully determine what native plants are most helpful in controlling buckthorn. Dell Erickson alerted us to this project and Tim Johnson is working on the forms the University requires. If you would like more information check out the project website: [coveritupumn.edu](http://coveritupumn.edu).



## Banfill Island assessment completed

In August several Breckenridge members and National Park Service employees went up the Mississippi River in the NPS boat primarily to assess what invasive species might be affecting the ecosystem of Banfill Island and what we might be able to do to intervene. Thanks to the water level being high we only hit one rock on the way.



We found that the only invasive plants of note presently were creeping-charlie and buckthorn. There was the odd purple loosestrife, dame's rocket, and bouncing bet but mostly the dense tree canopy, forest floor level concentrations of ostrich fern and wood nettle, and browsing deer were keeping the buckthorn in check. We only found one mature seed producing buckthorn tree. John Moriarty showed us how some foot or so high buckthorn was at least ten years old, having been browsed annually. That said, there are thousands of buckthorn seedlings on the island, Both the NPS and Three Rivers Parks manager John Moriarty told us that they are no

longer recommending pulling buckthorn seedlings as we have been doing somewhat successfully on our Chapter House property for years.

The NPS has offered to help us treat the one severe thicket of buckthorn on the island's south-east side where sunlight is more available. Right now we will just watch the rest of the island. There is a planned bow-hunt for deer on the island again this year. At one count recently there were a couple dozen deer. However, we only counted four of them on our trip. The deer, while sometimes nibbling on buckthorn, are also over browsing the native plants of the island, suppressing regeneration of trees needed when the canopy opens up, often by beaver activity.

Our long-time member Dell Erickson alerted us to a U of Minn citizen science study to see if buckthorn can be suppressed by planting a mix of seeds which might crowd it out. We have submitted the initial contact form and survey for both the island and our mainland property.

Another buckthorn control method being used in an experiment downstream below St. Paul uses fenced in goats to chew the buckthorn and most other plants down to the ground. We have been offered that option and are still evaluating if it makes sense for us.

Both bald eagle nests, one on the upstream end and the other on the downstream end were used again this year. The unusually long period of high water this year didn't affect the many geese who nested on the higher ridges nor the other waterfowl who use the nest boxes we have. For a series of photos of our trip, see the [Breckenridge Facebook page](#).

**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)**

**September 24 - ???  
October 22 - Lori Johnson  
November 26 -**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Two thank you notes from our Scholarship students with updates on their activities:**

To Jim Arnold and the entire Izaak Walton League  
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Thank you so very much for the scholarship money! I appreciate it so much and the money will be put to good use this fall as I continue my studies in biology and environmental science! A little update: I am continuing to work as a research assistant at St. Thomas on our project involving how stocking muskies in MN lakes affects lake food webs. I am also taking a biology research class in Costa Rica this January so I am very excited! Thank you so much again; this scholarship is such a big help as I continue my studies!

*Sincerely, Mary Thelen*

Dear Members of the IWLA – Walter J.  
Breckenridge Chapter,

Thank you very much for your generosity in supporting the Student Scholarship! It means a lot to me to have received the scholarship again. I am looking forward to beginning my junior year at NDSU! I am especially look-in forward to starting my research project: How mycorrhizal fungi affect carnivorous sundew growth rates. Your scholarship helps me to pay for books and tuition. Once again, than you very much for the scholarship!

*Sincerely, David Hainlen*