



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

April 2014
www.breckenridgeikes.org



September

- 09 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Richard J. Baker White-nose syndrome in bats

October

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

November

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting



Richard J. Baker
Minnesota Endangered Species Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651/259-5073

E-mail: ghttp://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp

Social/ Ed meeting
Sept 23, 7:30 PM.
Speaker, Rich Baker

Title: White-nose Syndrome and the Status of Bat Conservation in Minnesota
By: Rich Baker, Endangered Species Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Bio: Rich Baker has been with the Minnesota DNR for 26 years, where he is currently the state's endangered species coordinator in the Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Before coming to the DNR, Rich worked for the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Rich holds a B.S. in Ecology from The Evergreen State College and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Cornell University.

Abstract: White-nose Syndrome is a bat disease first discovered in New York in 2006 that is slowly spreading west across the U.S. At its worst, it has killed up to 99% of the bats within infected caves. While this disease has yet to take hold in Minnesota, the DNR has implemented a program to detect its presence and slow its spread. The DNR is also working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address the implications of the disease for bat conservation in Minnesota. Rich will provide an update on these topics.

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

August 12, 2014

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

IWLA Member Pledge: We strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, 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.

August 12thBoard of Directors Meeting
August 26thSocial/Education Meeting
September 9thBoard of Directors Meeting
September 23Social/Education Meeting

Attendees: Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Dick Brown, Barbara Franklin, Mark Gustafson, Larry Kennebeck, Tim Johnson **Guest:** Marlys Carls-Steiskal

Issues Dick/Bill

Social/Education Meeting Speakers

August – Joanna Eckles – Project BirdSafe

September – Open

October - Open

Dick Brown presented, and a discussion was held on the MNRRA in Minnesota and The Future for All Waterways at the last Board of Directors meeting.

As a follow up to our discussion a letter was drafted on the Chapter's position. The letter was approved and signed.

A draft letter on the Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) was presented and approved. It was suggested that the letter be sent out to all MN Division Chapters.

Representatives from our Chapter attended a meeting at the Raptor Center regarding the "Alternative Ammunition" proposal that was tentatively approved by the LCCMR. Some of the components of the LCCMR work program for this project will include sponsorships of shooting clinics where hunters can bring their own rifles and traditional ammo and try it in comparison with copper ammunition; development of an alternative ammo supplement to the DNR hunter education and hunter safety manuals; explore how to proceed with other initiatives like advocacy for volunteer use of alternative ammo at mentored youth hunts.

The Breckenridge Chapter hosted the MN Division IWLA Summer Board of Directors meeting on August 1st and 2nd. The two day event drew in 20 attendees from the Minnesota Chapters. One of the topics discussed was how to bring in new membership into our chapters and the league.

The Minnesota Division will be offering a 50% discount on the national and division portions of new member dues. This offer would be only for new members who have no prior history of League membership and is to be used as an incentive to grow our membership. The two day event ended with a tour of the Coon Rapids Dam. Board of Director Nomination's and election will be held at the August Social/Education Meeting. A follow-up meeting on SNA issue was held on Aug 22nd, it was felt that the best approach would be to get the DNR to do a study to determine if added recreation damages the SNA's. But, in that process stop all added recreation until that study has been completed.

Chapter House & Grounds ... Jim/Steve

Boulevard entrance garden beds, next steps. On hold for now.

The river walkway and observation deck project was finished in time for the MN Division IWLA Summer Board of Directors meeting. A special thank you goes out to the following people.

Chapter Members: Steve Schaust, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Mark Gustafson, Tim Johnson, Dick Brown

Wood Donation: Brad Larson

Best Buy Employees

Saturday, September 13th is "junk pick up day" in our area of Brooklyn Park. We would like to have a small group of volunteers to help go through the basement, closet, and wood pile to see what we could throw.

Kitchen remodel – Construction of our new kitchen cabinets could begin this winter. Board members were asked to think of ways that we could raise the necessary funds for this project. One suggestion was to send donation letters out to our current membership.

Newsletter Marlys

In Marlys Carls-Steiskal absence, Barb Franklin will be responsible for the August Timberlines.

Treasurer's Report John

Update was given.

Scholarship Committee Jim

No updates.

Webmaster Barb

No updates.

Rentals Wes

August and September will be quiet months for rentals. Tim Johnson, our newest board member, has volunteered to take over as Rental Chair.

Membership Lorraine

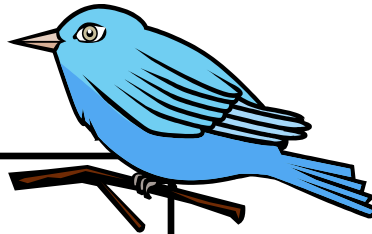
A special welcome goes out to our new Chapter member, Craig Andresen. Our total membership now stands at 98.

OPINION

Dick Brown

Thanks to Jerry Bahls, Mpls. Audubon President, for obtaining our August 26th speaker. Joanna Eckles from "Bird Safe" spoke on the problem of birds colliding with window glass. The problem is greater than we think, especially with large buildings downtown... Most birds migrate at night but some during the day. Reflexions of sky and trees by day and attractions of lights from windows at night are the problem. It seems night is the worst. The group Bird Safe, in conjunction with Audubon is a group of people monitoring the downtown bird kills. They arrive at dawn and walk sidewalks counting all the dead birds each morning in migrating season. It can amount to hundreds each night. One of the most important issues this year is trying to get the Vikings Stadium to use a special glass that does not reflect. For around \$900,000 it has been said this can be done.

I believe every environmental conservation organization should ask their members to tell the following that non-reflective glass should be a necessity for the Stadium:
Gov. Mark Dayton, 130 State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., St Paul, MN 55155
MN Vikings, 500 11th Ave So, Mpls, MN 55415
MN Sports Facilities Authority, 511 11th Ave So, Mpls, MN 55415



BLUEBIRD TRAIL NOTES 2014

The Breckenridge Chapter, IWLA maintains and monitors a bluebird trail consisting of 12 nesting boxes in Oxbow Creek Park which is just east of Jackson Middle School in Champlin, MN. There are two small prairie areas in the Oxbow Creek Park separated by a low wooded area. The nesting boxes are in the northernmost of the two prairie areas.

The 2014 bluebird nesting season started quite late due to the below normal temperatures in May and June as it did in 2013. I normally expect to see bluebirds return anytime after mid March but for 2014 I did not see my first bluebird until after mid April. For 2014 only one of the 12 boxes had a bluebird nest. There were four eggs in the nest but only three eggs hatched. This pair of bluebirds did not attempt to produce a second brood in any of the twelve boxes probably because of the late start for the first brood. Fledgling count for this trail was 3 bluebirds and 23 tree swallows for the 2014 season.

Red tail hawks were observed hunting several times and I assume that they are nesting in the area.

Orange Butterfly-weed and lavender Wild Bergamot were the most common wild flowers observed.

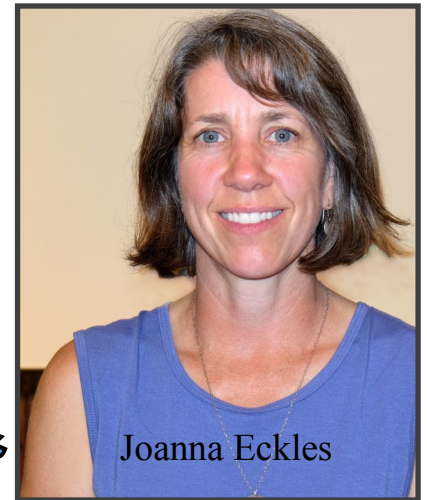
Audubon

BFC | Key Elements



CONSERVATION

1. Habitat
2. Threat Reduction
3. Healthy Air and Climate
4. Water Quality & Conservation
5. Conservation Connections



Joanna Eckles

If you can provide light refreshments for one of our Tuesday meetings, please contact

Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

September 23 - Patrice Lindgren

October 28 -

November 25 -



OPINION

The following letter is a result of the decision made by a group temporarily called "Friends of MN Scientific and Natural Areas." The idea is to halt DNR's propensity to open SNA's to general recreation without scientific reason, especially hunting, running of dogs on or off leash and trapping. ATTENDEES WERE:

Larry Kennebeck, Breckenridge Ch. Ike; Tom Casey, Attorney; Ellen Fuge, Ret. DNR /SNA; Bob Djupstrom, Ret. DNR/SNA Supervisor; Howard Goldman, Humane Society; Don Arnost, MN Ikes; Dick Brown, Breckenridge Ch. Ike..

The group is hoping to expand and pursue the issue further.

August 29, 2014

Dear DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr

Dear Governor Dayton

As a citizen who respects much of what the DNR does ,yet there are times when one needs to positively disagree.

Years ago SNA's were set up specifically for the absolute protection of certain species, excluding uses that could be harmful. We now see a tendency of weakening of these protections on many SNA's. As an ardent hunter for many years, I understand the yearning of the tyro to hunt everywhere we can. However, the itch to hunt must be tempered by realization that Environmental Conservation needs to foster restraint to that end in certain cases.

SNA's Lake Alexander Woods and Minnesota Pine Point Forrest are cases in point. In Alexander, if deer predation is destroying the protected species, then by all means a regulated hunt on Does only should be a permitted hunt as per State Parks and Refuges. Thereby, you have a handle on what is going on.

On MN Point Pine Forest allowing dogs (with accompanying people) on or off leash is not good policy. Because some dog owners may "slip the leash" when no one is looking, and some leashes tend to have very long leads. The trampling and urinating of both dogs and humans tend to change the chemistry of the soil over a period of time, which would be detrimental to the endangered species being protected.

There are many of us who feel the policy suggested on Pine Point should be reversed, especially in this area where abundant population could magnify the problems.

We hope you will consider our positions here.

Respectfully,

Richard P Brown, Conservation Issues Chair

Izaak Walton League of America

Walter J Breckenridge Chapter

8816 West River Rd

Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

If you would like to
receive this newsletter
electronically, please contact
Barb Franklin at
763-657-1907



The Idea of Wilderness

Kevin Proescholdt— St Paul, MN As heard on the *This I Believe* podcast Sept. 1, 2014

I believe that one of the best ideas our country ever had was the idea of wilderness conservation.

It was not always so, for when our country was first settled by European colonists, the wilderness was a feared place, the home of wild beasts and Native Americans. Wilderness then had to be conquered, rolled back, developed. As western expansion swept across the country, wilderness was destroyed, broken up, or shrunk by settlers, railroads, barbed wire, and towns. Only fragments of the continental wilderness remained, and these, too, continued to face attacks and threats.

Luckily, though, a movement began in the early 20th century that recognized the values of wilderness, and began advocating for the preservation of the remaining remnants. Then, fifty years ago, Congress passed the 1964 Wilderness Act, providing statutory protection to an initial National Wilderness Preservation System of 9.1 million acres, spread out over 54 separate areas. The new law lyrically defined wilderness as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” In the process, our country set an example for the world.

Wilderness designation is the highest protection our nation can give to federal land. Wilderness designation is an overlay of protection for areas in our existing National Forests, National Parks, or other public lands. The idea of wilderness is so popular that Congress has expanded the wilderness system since 1964 to almost 110 million acres today, in over 750 areas. One could claim that the idea of Wilderness has itself become wildly popular.

Wilderness areas provide a haven for wildlife

like the grizzly my wife and I saw a few years ago in Wyoming, or the wolves I’ve seen and heard howling here in northern Minnesota. Wilderness areas allow ecological forces like forest succession and natural disturbances like fire to continue without being manipulated by humankind. Wilderness allows even the stuff of evolution itself to continue undisturbed.

Wilderness areas also provide special experiences for human visitors, too. Recreation in these beautiful scenic areas is important, of course, with activities like camping, backpacking, or fishing. But wilderness also provides a special sanctuary for the human spirit, where we can re-discover the wonder and humility and restraint so often lacking in our frenzied “civilized” lives.

I’ve had the good fortune of spending much of my life connected to wilderness. For my summer college job, I guided canoe trips in my beloved Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, and I’ve visited other wilderness areas from Alaska to Idaho, from Montana to California. For many years I’ve also worked professionally with non-profit conservation organizations like Wilderness Watch to provide wilderness designation to deserving areas, and to fight to have those areas protected and managed to the best degree possible after they’ve been designated. The work is well worth the effort, to try to pass on a legacy of untrammelled wilderness to future generations of Americans. May the idea of wilderness continue to shine brightly as one of the best ideas our country ever imagined.

*Kevin Proescholdt of Minneapolis works as the conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization based in Missoula, Montana (www.wildernesswatch.org). He visits and writes extensively about wilderness, including co-authoring the book *Troubled Waters: The Fight for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness*.*

**Kevin is a member of W.J. Breckenridge Chapter.*

**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

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **EditorBreckIWL@msn.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.”

Started	Term Expires	Name	Board Position
	2014	Steven Schaust	President (elected annually)
	2014	Bill Barton	Vice President (elected annually)
	2014	Patrice Lindgren	Secretary (elected annually)
	2014	John Fraley	Treasurer (elected annually)
	2014	Jim Arnold	Scholarship
	2014	Dick Brown	Issues/Programs
	2014	Wes Hendrickson	Rentals
	2015	Barbara Franklin	Webmaster
	2015	Roger Williams	At Large
	2016	Mark Gustafson	At Large
	2016	Larry Kennebeck	At Large
	2017	Tim Johnson	Facebook Manager
	2017		
		Lorraine Spears	Membership (indefinite)
		Marlys Carls-Steiskal	Newsletter (indefinite)

I have one share in corporate Earth, and I am nervous about the management. -E.B. White, writer (1899-1985)