



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

April 2017
www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

April

- 08 "Audubon and Climate: The Future for Birds" John Anderson is the west metro community coordinator with Conservation MN @BUMC Church
- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 18 Solar Energy Takes Off In Brooklyn Park 6:00 P.M.
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Mike Maher Director
Springbrook Nature Center

May

- 06 Set up for Pancake Breakfast
- 07 Pancake Breakfast
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale Sunday, May 7

A reminder that our Chapters biggest and most important fund raiser of the year is scheduled for Sunday, May 7. Please help spread the word.

We need workers for the following tasks:
Saturday 9:00 am to noon – Set up & decorate
Sunday first shift (8:00 to 10:30) – Pancakes, Kitchen, beverages/tables, cashier
Sunday second shift (10:30 to 1:00) – Pancakes, Kitchen, beverages/tables, cashier
Sunday clean up (1:00 to 2:30)
Sunday plant sale (8:00 to 1:00)

Please call or email Jim Arnold (763 560 8972 or jjarnold@Q.com) if you can help – or sign up at the April or May social/educational meetings. If possible consider working two shifts.

You can also help by donating plants for the plant sale. Plants should be brought to the Chapter House on Saturday, May 6th.



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

**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League**

March 14, 2017

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.

March 14th Board of Directors Meeting
March 28th Social/Educational Meeting
April 11th Board of Directors Meeting
April 25th Social/Educational Meeting

Attendees: Steve Schaust, Larry Kennebeck, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Wes Hendrickson, Dick Brown, Joe Klohs, Karen Ostenson, Barb Franklin

Events/IssuesDick/Larry/Jim
Social/Education Meeting Speakers
March – Todd Tuominen, Asst.
Champlin City Engineer – Champlin
Mill Pond Update
April – TBD
May – TBD

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, May 7th –
planning has begun.

Water Action Day at the capital, Wednesday,
April 19th 8am – 4pm. Meet with
legislators & rally to protect

Minnesota's water. For more information go to
[http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/Izaak/
Events.html](http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/Izaak/Events.html)

IWLA Annual Meeting and State Convention, April
28th – 30th will be hosted by the Austin Chapter.
For registration information go to [http://
www.minnesotaiakes.org/Izaak/Files/2017-
StateConvention.pdf](http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/Izaak/Files/2017-StateConvention.pdf)

The final draft of the letter that was sent to the
Champlin City Engineer, regarding the
Highway 169
Improvement project was reviewed by the
Board.

A review and discussion was held on the
Resolution “Oppose Sportsmen’s Heritage
Act Legislation That Harms the Wilderness
Act” that was drafted by Chapter member

Kevin Proescholdt. A motion was made by
Jim Arnold and it was seconded to approve
the resolution as written. Motion passed.

In an effort to engage our Chapter member’s in
reaching out to their local representative on
issues they
are passionate about. A suggestion was
made that we could provide information on
current issues, along
with the necessary contact information.
We would then make that information
available at our monthly Social/Education
meetings and those interested in
participating would have the opportunity to
complete a few postcards that we will have
available.

Chapter House & GroundJoe/Jim/Steve
Facilities Taskforce met on March 2nd, a
subcommittee was set up for each project
and members of
taskforce volunteered for their area of
interest. The responsibility of each
subcommittee will be to gather
information on different options and costs
that will be presented to the Board for
consideration.

NewsletterMarlys
If you have any articles for the Timberlines please
send them to EditorBreckIWL@msn.com

Treasurer’s ReportJohn
The 2017 Income and Expense Summary report
was distributed for the Boards review.

Scholarships Jim
April 15th is the due date for scholarship
applications.

WebmasterBarb
Pancake Breakfast bulletin has been posted to
our website.

Rentals Tim
There is only 1 rental scheduled for the month
of March and April.

Membership Mary Ellen
Our total membership for 2017 stands at 64
with 3 renewals still outstanding.

**We would like to
welcome our new member,
Loras Holmberg.**

Izaak Walton League, Breckenridge Chapter
Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, May 7, 2017
8 am-1 pm

Adults \$7.00 Children \$5.00

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Plant Sale!



Raffle!

Breckenridge Chapter House
8816 West River Road Brooklyn Park

2017 Watershed Summit
The Year of Water: What is the Path Going Forward?

Or, Good Farmers Don't Pollute
Dell Erickson

We always look forward to the annual Water Summit. It is an opportunity to mingle with friends, become better informed about the past year, and glean insights as to Minnesota's water and habitat future. Its promise was fulfilled. And a fear exposed.



Jill Crafton, MC, Izaak Walton League



Dr. Anna Henderson, Office of the Governor



Tom Gile, BWSR

Jill Crafton was the emcee and presented an outline of the historical water path and what is happening in Minnesota today.

Dr. Anna Henderson is the Water Advisor for Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith. Dr. Henderson described some of the water problems confronting Minnesota and briefly mentioned some of the Administration's water initiatives

Tom Gile is the Soil Erosion Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, BWSR. He said that BWSR oversees and regulates many of the water resources in Minnesota. It has process powers but rule making lies with other authorities. The local soil and water conservation districts have enforcement capabilities.¹

The rules only mention "riparian corridors", therefore buffers can be any kind of perennial vegetation, any plant community growing adjacent to a natural body of water.

In my opinion, an obvious *quid pro quo* gift to the agriculture industry, buffers can be mowed as a cash crop or feed, and even for cattle or other livestock grazing. Although not discussed, the rules are silent as to wildlife habitat, addressing only water pollution and sediments.

Farmer Tom Finnegan discussed farming methods that improve soil quality by using multi-species as cover crops and leaving fields covered for fall and winter grazing. Although he does use some pesticides and

Farmer Tom Finnegan discussed farming methods that improve soil quality by using multi-species as cover crops and leaving fields covered for fall and winter grazing. Although he does use some pesticides and fertilizer, his methods keep the fields covered much longer and require significantly few mechanical passes. While achieving better habitats, less pollution, and less erosion farmers can make a living and husband the land at the same time. An extremely serious matter the Ikes must meet head on is the impoundments and diversion ditch program now being implemented.

The Red River Basin Strategic Plan to Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg is a jarring example.² Speaker Aaron Ostlund is the project coordinator. No one mentioned the real problem is building cities on a floodplain. The sole purposes of the strategic program are to reduce nutrient levels going into Lake Winnipeg and control flooding in flood prone local areas, i.e., Fargo. Unfortunately, the "public input" –as specified in the plan– was only with agricultural sector interests!

Most disappointingly, this is the Minnesota template to be implemented for 10 – 20 additional Minnesota projects. That's a huge area. Environmentally, these projects are very destructive.

The Red River Basin is a \$19 million project with \$2.5 million from Legacy funding. It literally grants agriculture interests a license for second-rate farming methods in a 75 square mile area. It provides for a 10 mile ditch to divert water from the Red River at high water periods, 18 dikes, and an 8 square mile area to collect sediments from the 75 square miles. The diversion implies that wetlands and its associated plants and animals and croplands depending on periodic high waters will suffer. The sediment impoundments are actually pollution and sediment sinks and become hazardous in due time. No doubt local ground waters will be impaired early in the cycle.

While cleverly calling them good habitat, they drain the impoundments by Fall every year for flood control. The plan intends also to have a commercial interest, grow cattail on the impoundments (a sign of poor quality habitat) and other vegetation, then mow it, grind it, and spread the materials back on the farmland. In that way they claim, some of the stuff coming off the farms will go back on the farmland (including some pollution and diseases). The deeply negative energy implications are bewildering. Quality habitat is not the goal. I expect Legacy money was contributed because the project was billed as preventing and restoring some of the wetlands in the 8 square miles of impoundments. Evidently, the Legacy Board didn't read the fine print because the lower impoundments were already wetlands, and in my opinion, a part of one could have used some restoration. The balance formerly was primarily agriculture land. The project converted some wetland habitat into a pollution and sediment sink for purposes of flood control. Hopefully, Legacy funding won't be forthcoming again.

The environmental community has its work cut out for them and the Minnesota environment.

The Minnesota law regarding drainage is, "2016 Minnesota Statutes CHAPTER 103E.

BWSR rules regarding buffers is seen in < http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/enforcement/12-12-16_Model_Buffer_Rule.pdf >. Buffer Law Implementation, Draft December 12, 2016. 2. "RIVER BASIN COMMISSION Water Quality Strategic Plan For the Red River Basin, PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE", February 2016, Red River Basin Commission, Fargo, ND 58102. Commission: < www.redriverbasincommission.org >. Report: < <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2016/mandated/160428.pdf> >.

Loon Locations

Want to know where your lake loon is? The US Geological Survey has a loon monitoring program to study loon migrations. Only a limited number of loons are tagged, but the results are mapped on umesc.usgs.gov weekly. On the mail graphic, go to all topics>Tracking Midwest Loons.

One loon lm-14, for instance, was born on Lake Monongalia in Kandiyohi County in 2014, overwintered along the southern Gulf coast and last summer spent its time in Nova Scotia. Last winter it was back along the west coast of Florida. It may return to MN this year; according to research loons return to their natal areas around ages 2-5.

There are 10,000 loons in MN, according to the website, who migrate over 1100 miles and are able to fly hundreds of miles (the longest documented was 670 miles) a day. A long-lived bird, the oldest known was 25 years.

Their trademark Calls? Loons actually have four vocalizations: hoot, tremolo, yodel and wail.

This article is taken from North Itasca Electric Watts News

Bird Cams

Power plant stacks provide a unique opportunity to observe birds of prey that use high nesting perches. Both Minnesota Power and Xcel have created sites for falcons in Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has placed a popular **EagleCam**. mndnr.gov/eaglecam

The first egg of the season was laid at 4:57 Jan. 28. The second one was laid Jan. 31 at 2:50 p.m. It is the fifth season for the EagleCam. If past history is repeated, a half million people representing every state and 155 nations will tune into the livestream during the 35 day incubation and early life of the eaglets. The site allows a viewer to review video from the past four hours.

Manpower.com/Environment/FalconCam

Falcon nests over 200 feet high on stacks at MN Power's Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset and Hibbard Renewable Energy Center in Duluth. The peregrine falcons return in March, the eggs are typically laid in April and hatch in late May. Chicks will start flying at about 40 days.

Birdcam.xcelenergy.com

Xcel has placed a variety of bird cams across its territory that can be selected from the main birdcam webpage. There are three eagle cameras, two in Colorado and one in Minnesota, and three falcon cameras in Minnesota, two in the Twin Cities and one in Becker. Two cameras for owl and kestrel pairs are available, both located in Colorado.

Information copied from North Itasca Electric Watts News March 2017

Social/educational meeting treat list

April 26 meeting:
May 24 meeting:

Help Needed

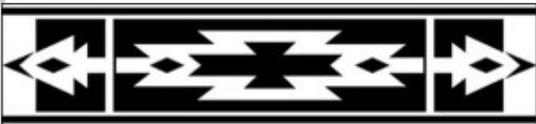
Please contact Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com



Thank you

TO DANCE O'ER PRAIRIE INDIAN MOUNDS

When our prairie blooms again,
We know approximately when;
I hope we'll still be there
To watch the blossoms flare.
And when it's time for us to go,
When moon and stars are all aglow;
We'll dance with Indian Maids and Braves
O'er mounds of blooms and spirit graves.
And as we dance on through the night
Our fire's smoke drifts t'ward the light,
And then we'll weep with Indian Folk
About the treaties we have broke,
And friends we'll make at last
From history's cruel and dismal past,
without a single telling sound,
When moon and stars shine at night
It will instigate our soul's delight
With campfires burning all night long
We'll leave no treads upon the snow,
We'll tread not on the blossom's glow.
unlike those beneath the ground,
We'll be sprinkled all around;
We are of Earth and Sky instead,
We'll join the spirits of the dead
By Dick Brown



We apologize about the misprinting of
this poem in the last edition of the
Timberlines.

Tuesday, April 18 6:00 p.m. Solar Energy Takes Off In Brooklyn Park

There will be a presentation by Dan Ruiz, Brooklyn Park's operations and maintenance manager, about the cities plans for solar panels on five city buildings. There will also be presentations on community solar gardens and the opportunity solar energy offers to people of color. The program will take place at Brooklyn Park City Hall. RSVP to Facebook or to CarolWoehrer@usfamily.net. There will be a free pizza buffet at 6:00 followed by the program at 6:30.

John Anderson is the west metro community coordinator with Conservation Minnesota. He would like to invite you to join me and the Brooklyn United Methodist Women for a presentation entitled "**Audubon and Climate: The Future for Birds**" about how birds, wildlife, and water are being affected by climate change here in Minnesota.

The program will take place on Saturday, April 8th at Brooklyn United Methodist Church, located at [7200 Brooklyn Blvd in Brooklyn Center](#) starting with a brunch at 10:00 am. The presentation will begin at 11:00 am and all are welcome.

To RSVP or for more information please contact the Brooklyn United Methodist Church office at 763-561-1684, or Kathy Carter at carterkathyj@comcast.net or 763-424-2631 and leave a message. A free will offering will be taken. This event is sponsored by Brooklyn United Methodist Women.

The Facilities Task Force has reorganized and has set a focus for their work by forming subcommittees to address areas of concern. They have also prioritized the list of tasks based on need. Contact Joe Klohs (612-670-1801) at any time if you are interesting in helping on a committee – more Chapter members on each committee would be welcomed! There will also be an opportunity to sign up for committees at the Pancake Breakfast in May.

IWLA Facilities Task Force Subcommittees

Basement wall and window repair

There are windows that need to be blocked in and wall repairs that need to be completed in the basement. Determine extent of window removal and wall repair and research solutions.

- Tim, Brad, Joe & Jim

River walkway

The walkway has sustained damage due to erosion and is unsafe to use. Contact experts in the field to propose possible solutions for the erosion. Determine repairs needed or possible re-construction of the walkway.

- Tim, Eric D, Joe, Jim & Brad
- Eagle Scout Project - Diane

Utilities assessment

Determine how we are using electricity in the Chapter house in terms of fixtures and appliances. Make recommendations for environmentally friendly and efficient lighting solutions for the Chapter house as well as for the driveway entrance.

- Dennis, Joe & Steve

Parking lot/driveway surface improvement

Research and recommend short- and long-range plans for the parking lot and driveway surfaces with the goal of making the driveway usable throughout the year regardless of weather conditions.

- Jim, Joe, Brad & Tom Reid

Rental checklist/resource closet

Review rental checklist and recommend possible changes. Look at necessary cleaning supplies and equipment for chapter and renters. Plan a remodeled resource closet for Chapter materials.

- Barb, Kathy, Judy, Jennifer & Patrice

Perennial gardens at driveway entrance/other plantings

Using experts in the field, make a plan for perennial gardens at the driveway entrance and other environmentally friendly planting solutions throughout the property.

- Barb, Mary Jo, Eric, Judy, Joe & Diane

Rain gardens - existing and new

Use experts in the field to help determine where and how rain gardens can be created and maintained on the property.

- Jim

Bathroom upgrades

Research upgrading both bathrooms to improve cleanability and appearance – flooring, fixtures, cosmetic changes.

- Barb, Kathy, Judy, Jennifer & Patrice

Evaluate and research technology to increase rentals to businesses

Determine what equipment we would need to provide capabilities for business group rental. Determine cost of necessary equipment and technology services.

- Patrice, Judy, Jennifer & Joe

Gazebo

Determine what action is needed to make the gazebo accessible and safe.

- Wes and Joe

Building exterior

Research and address maintenance issues regarding staining the exterior siding and repairing fascia.

- Joe, Linda and Del Erickson





THOMPSON'S TAKES

01/01/05

(By permission of the Owatonna lkes' *Savannah View* and
Nels Thompson, author)



You know, I just never get tired of studying the workings of a bird. People have asked me what it is about birds that fascinate me so. Of course many birds are brightly colored. That takes on more significance when you learn that

I grew up in a time when there was no colored TV to contaminate my intrigue with colorful things, insects included. In fact I was 12 years old before we even had TV. Colored TV wasn't a part of my life until I was in my 30's. I was hooked on birds way before that. I wonder how kids today are going to fare in the world of wildlife. Where birds are concerned, color will not be much of an attraction with all manner of gadgets that are available to them for entertainment. Couple that with the alarming rate with which birds are disappearing and I can see a time where birds just won't be a part of their lives. For those of us that do appreciate birds, that future looks pretty bleak. For those who never had an introduction to birds, whether it be due to electronic distractions or just too few birds to attract attention, the thought may be ... "no big deal." For me, birds continue to be a big deal. I am as fascinated with their biology as I am with their presence. I have written about the ability of birds to see ultraviolet light. We can't! In fact the stuff is dangerous to our sight. What the world looks like to a bird is just something we can't even imagine.

Tired of my rambling about sight (though I'm not done with that, yet)? What about sound production? We have a **larynx** to make sounds with. It comes with a pair of vocal cords to vibrate and one air tube, the trachea, to supply air for the vocal cords. Birds have a **syrinx**. The syrinx receives air from the 2 bronchial tubes. Each tube has paired vibrating membranes for sound production. They can be made to vibrate independently from each other. Therefore, each vocal membrane pair can "sing" a different "song!" And they have many more muscles to run those membranes than we have for our vocal cords. **Sonograms** (sound waves on a graph picture) show an incredibly complicated "music" for birds. I use the quotation marks because birds are not really singing. The sounds and calls they make are for territory guarding, mating, and location purposes. It's their way of talking. I doubt serenading people is high on their "to do" list.

Then there is the sense of smell. I used to believe that just a very few birds could smell. It's well documented that Turkey Vultures can find their yukky food by smelling it.

Pigeons have the ability to travel using magnetic cues. But, following lines of magnetism like a compass does, only gets them close to their home area. It has now been shown that pigeons require smell to zero in on their home loft. Shearwaters, a type of seabird, also require the ability to smell to find their nests. Catbirds from Illinois showed a need for the sense of smell to find the way home from New Jersey. Yeah, I don't know why they chose New Jersey, either. I've heard some stinky stories about that state. Another seabird, an albatross, can detect the presence of its sea food from many miles away by smell. They like calamari, OK, squid.

Speaking of sight (grin) and speaking of albatrosses, consider this. An albatross often flies as much 10,000 miles without touching land. Often it's a circum-oceanic loop. How do they keep from getting lost over 10,000 miles of open ocean? Well, magnetism, but ... a researcher named Mouritsen, has discovered that albatrosses can't navigate by magnetism in the dark. They need some light. Star light can be enough. White is best but blue and green will work, too. Red will not! His conclusion ... they can literally see magnetism. Chemicals in the retina cones that see ultraviolet are the secret. What must an ocean look like with magnetic lines of force covering it?

Running out of room here but here is another fascination of mine, hearing. Wasn't always until I started losing mine. For mammals (people, too) and birds, sound is detected this way ... there is an ear drum which picks up the vibrations of sound. The ear drum vibrates a set of bones (incus, malleus, and stapes) which, in turn, vibrate another membrane. There is fluid behind the second membrane. Little structures called **hair cells**, stick into the fluid. Like seaweed in the surf, hair cells wiggle. That wiggling sends nerve signals to the brain which interprets the wiggle rate as a message. Here's the deal ... it's the hair cells breaking down in time, especially after sharp sounds, that causes hearing losses. The cells cannot be repaired, unless ... you are a bird! Birds do not lose their hearing. They regrow the damaged hair cells. How cool is that? I tried hearing aids, once. They didn't work.

So the question for me is ... "where can I get some feathers? Or ... do I need a beak? Hmm.

Well, alright, then ... NFT

**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.”

Educational Meeting for April 25th at 7:30 pm:

Mike Maher has served as the Director of Springbrook Nature during the past four very exciting years. Mike has a degree in Agricultural Education from Penn State University and has worked as a naturalist, professional storyteller and director of a history museum before joining the Springbrook Staff.

20 years ago, Springbrook Nature Center began the process to develop a master plan to revitalize the nature center. The process has been full of ups and downs but after receiving a 5 million dollar grant from the State of Minnesota in 2014, the dream has turned into a reality. In the summer of 2016, a beautiful new interpretive center was opened and construction is currently underway to build a community amphitheater and nature-based play space.

Mike will share some of the natural history of the park as well as the future direction of the community and environmental education programs underway at this thriving urban nature center.