



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
June 2019

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

## COMING EVENTS

### JUNE 2019

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Paul Fusco: Osprey Update

### JULY 2019

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

### AUGUST 2019

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

Social/Educational meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 7:30 p.m.

Paul Fusco

Osprey Update

Paul Fusco graduated from Polytechnic Institute of New York with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry with a minor in psychology. He worked at Columbia University for just over 5 years when he found himself drawn to the Midwest to explore the natural world around us. It was here he learned the basics of monitoring bluebird trails, frog and toad surveys, was a board member of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, volunteered doing bird banding, helped the international Wolf Center, an Eagle Watch Assistant in Wabasha, MN, The Raptor Center Flight Crew, which he is still doing, and let's not forget observed osprey!

It was when he discovered he could read the band numbers on the banded osprey using his telescope he usually used for astronomy, a whole new frontier opened. That started in 1993 while he was helping out on an Osprey Reintroduction Program at Cedar Lake in Minneapolis. From there he trained observers at French Regional Park. Then he started to watch a new osprey nest at the Coon Rapids Dam. In the middle of 2003 he discovered that using a digital point and shoot camera he could take pictures through his telescope and that is where we join him on this fantastic journey.



# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes April 9, 2019

A quorum of board members was present: Barb, Larry, Dennis, Steve, Tim, Joe, John, Karen, Jim, Wes and Dick attended.

Meeting was called to order with recitation of the Ike's member pledge.

Plans for May 5<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast were discussed further. Proposal made to contact Scout Troops to see if one might be interested in trading volunteer assistance for a free rental. Ideas to recruit other volunteers offered. Plans for a concurrent plant sale affirmed but late spring may limit offerings. Raffle items are welcome.

Membership recruitment: A subcommittee will meet to develop a brochure to have available at the Pancake Breakfast. A motion by Joe to allow new members a free weekday, non-holiday rental (based on availability) through the end of this year carried. One idea is to develop a video to present on local TV (the Steele family, current members, has offered expertise in developing one).

Jim suggested we compile a list of the Chapter's accomplishments in the previous year. Steve agreed and thought that would be helpful in submitting annual paperwork to the national IWLA office.

## Issues

Minnesota Division annual convention will be held in April. We are allowed five votes and currently Steve and Larry have committed to go.

Gov. Walz's executive order to restore healthy, diverse pollinator populations was announced. Steve suggested funding for our Oxbow pollinator project might be obtained from this. Dick mentioned a bill being offered in the Legislature to distribute grants to urban property owners who enhance pollinator habitat.

Dick was given the go ahead to ask the Audubon Chapter to join us for our summer meetings. Karen offered some speaker suggestions for future meetings. Karen announced she plans to attend Water Action Day at the Capitol and invited others to join her.

Larry shared a report on a Brooklyn Park community meeting where plans for updating River Park were presented. It was agreed that we need to communicate our concern about saving the wetland wildflower sections along the river where an elevated walkway is proposed. Joe will be in contact with Jody Yungers at City Hall on this and other matters. Joe spoke with the Brooklyn Park city forester about tree cutting in progress at Coon Rapids Dam and learned they are removing what they consider "junk trees" and ash trees which they predict will be killed soon by green ash borers.

A brief discussion on cattle grazing in wilderness areas was had.

Dick and Tim shared their actions to eliminate funding for a National Loon Center to be located at Cross Lake from the LCCMR list for funding (around \$4 million dollars from the ENTRF). The letter detailing the objections can be found on the Friends of Minnesota SNA's [website](#). Dick's opinion piece was included in last month's Timberlines.

John presented Treasurer's report: Income from Zonolite Trust and Division Energy grant expected soon.

Scholarship committee leaning to increase our scholarship amount to \$600. Decisions on applicants for 2019-2020 will be made later this month.

## Building and Grounds:

- Emergency light replacement has been purchased.
- Bathroom – Bathroom remodel plans on hold until after Pancake Breakfast.
- Plans for renewal of protective coating on exterior walls was shared by Joe.
- Furnace – We need a new one this summer. Discussion had on who to contract the work with. Jim suggested an article on the subject for next Timberlines to see if any members have suggestions.
- Ice dam problems – We still need to add some foam insulation in gaps around heat vents.
- Banfill Island maintenance – Our member John Moriarity and a National Park Service representative have agreed to walk the island with members after high waters recede with an eye to advise on managing invasive plants and deer over-browsing.

## 2019-20 Scholarship Recipients Selected

By Jim Arnold

The Breckenridge Chapter scholarship committee again was challenged to select a small group of students from several outstanding applicants. Three of the four talented students selected by the scholarship committee were introduced at the May 28 meeting. *Kathryn Breuckman, Mary Thelen, and David Hainlen are shown here; Willa Nagel was in Norway.*



**Willa Nagel** spent her senior year of high school as a foreign exchange student in Norway. Growing up in Red Wing she spent much of her time canoeing the back waters of the Mississippi and climbing the bluffs overlooking the river. Next fall she will begin college at the University of Minnesota where she plans to study natural resources, plants and climate change at the college of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Science. Her long term goal is to select a career where she will work to preserve and grow the United States natural areas. She writes, “I am compelled to enter a field where I can live in, work in and contribute to our countries wild lands.”

Living in Norway has been challenging and educational for Willa. She has become proficient in Norwegian and has made long life connections with people from all over the world. She has been impressed by Norway’s carbon tax and promotion of electric cars, even though the country is a large producer of oil.

Before her Norway experience Willa was very active in environmental activities in Red Wing. She was part of a group of high school students who formed a Sustainability Club whose mission is to involve younger students in climate change solutions. She was also very active in Red Wing’s

environmental learning center, eventually becoming a junior instructor.

**Kathryn Breuckman** of Andover High School recently finished her junior year at the University of St. Thomas. She plans to finish her undergraduate studies with a major in Chemistry with a minor in Biology and French. After her undergraduate studies Katie plans to pursue either a PhD or MD/PhD degree to continue research on environmental issues. She writes that she would love to lead a research team to explore the health risks associated with pharmaceutical usage as it pertains to contaminating natural surface waters.

Katie is currently part of a four year project that aims to create an antibiotic resistance footprint of Minnesota by focusing on affected water systems. This group spent last summer sampling lakes and rivers across Minnesota and testing the samples for the presence of antibiotic resistant genes.

In her spare time Katie enjoys a variety of outdoor activities which have helped shape her environmental interests: cross country running, Nordic skiing, rock climbing, camping and hunting. She is also an active participant in the St. Thomas sustainability club.

**David Hainlen**, a graduate of Osseo High School, recently completed his sophomore year at North Dakota State. His future educational plans have changed. His earlier plan was to become a wildlife biologist but now is planning a career as a research biologist specializing in plant ecology.

This year David again presented at NDSU’s Darwin Days (a hall showcasing biodiversity and evolution) displaying his carnivorous plants. He was also selected to be a recipient of the Cassel scholarship – offered by the biology department to do research on his carnivorous plants.

David continues to be concerned about the possibility of copper mining near the Boundary Waters. He frequently contacts congressional representatives with his concerns and encourages others to follow his example. He enjoys a variety of outdoor activities: running, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and skiing.

*(continued on p.4)*

**Mary Thelen** is a graduate of Anoka High School who recently completed her sophomore year at the University of St. Thomas. Her undergraduate goals involve double majoring in biology and Spanish. In the future she hopes to have a career that studies environmental issues like wildlife conservation or natural resource management. Mary is especially concerned about the impact climate change and habitat destruction is having on biodiversity.

Next year Mary plans to take part in a field research class in Costa Rica. This summer she will be working on a research project that will study the diets and niche overlap of musky and other piscivorous fish in Minnesota lakes.

Mary is active in the sustainability club at St. Thomas involving herself in a variety of projects. She enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, especially fishing and hiking.

*The Breckenridge Chapter has now awarded 90 scholarships in the twenty years of the program. After twenty years of offering \$500 scholarships it was decided earlier this year that the Chapter could afford increasing the amount to \$600. As in years past, recipients can reapply for the scholarship for up to four years of their undergraduate careers. The main source of funding for these scholarships is an endowment fund established through the generosity of members. The endowment began with an initial donation from the estate of Irene Swanson in the summer of 1999, followed shortly thereafter by sizeable donations from Cynthia Haugland and Walter and Dorothy Breckenridge. The endowment continues to grow, thanks primarily to generous donations each year from Larry Swanson, Tom and Marilyn Breckenridge and John Breckenridge. When earnings from the endowment are not sufficient to cover the scholarships costs, fund raisers (like the annual silent auction) and special donations from other members have been used. Thanks to all those members who have made it possible to support local young people as they study for their environmental careers. If you have questions about the Breckenridge Chapter scholarship program please contact one of the committee members: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin.*

## Update on Roundup

The news has been full of reports of recent lawsuits regarding glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup. Juries have awarded large sums in 3 cases in California, and there are approximately 13,500 cases pending in several states, including at least 4 plaintiffs in Minnesota. Bayer, the German company that bought Monsanto and now produces Roundup, is appealing all the cases and it is anticipated that the awards will be reduced. So far, Bayer has won no cases.

Bayer's share price has gone down by about 40% since it bought Monsanto. Another complication is that there are about 40 products using generic glyphosate. Bayer licenses Scott's Miracle Gro, further expanding the amount used. Use of these herbicides continues to increase, and they are the most commonly used weed management chemical in the world.

Because glyphosate has also been found in Cheerios and other grain-based products, there are also suits filed against Kellogg's and General Mills. In at least one case, Home Depot is a defendant because they sell it.

Lawsuits are complicated because the Environmental Protection Agency has said that Roundup is not a public health risk, but it recognizes that there are ecological effects. Bayer plans to use the fact that a U.S. agency has not condemned glyphosate as its defense argument. They are also trying to use business-friendly courts for their appeals and upcoming cases.

Interestingly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges that Roundup does present health risks. Furthermore, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organization, says it "probably" causes cancer. With so much conflicting information, it must be challenging to be on the juries in these cases. I assume we will be hearing about court room action for years to come.

Information was gathered from Reuters, *StarTribune*, NPR, and "Weedkiller Crisis" website.

*Karen Ostenso*

## **Opinion: Of cows and humans**

On MPR I heard a thoughtful person exclaim “if you are aware of a problem and do not rise up to alleviate the problem; you are part of the problem”. I’ve heard that before. It reminded me of many of the problems great and small that our Natural Heritage faces today. I have had personal experience with parts of it.

All my life I have been interested in birds and animals both on farms and especially in the wild. Of course, this includes their habitats. My Dad was an active IWLA member of the South Mpls. Chapter (Now Bush Lake), a charter member and past president. Because of my age, background and interest; and because I have a better memory than most of things thus associated, I am inclined to note: Being raised on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and 58<sup>th</sup> St. South in Mpls. for 18 years, the area was sparsely populated. This was in the 1930’s and 40’s. Nearby on each side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave were bogs, meadows and ephemeral wetlands. A block east was Diamond Lake, then a boggy wetland marsh. We heard Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and there was an abundance of Pheasants. What happened?

The wetlands were drained, filled and built upon! 35W removed half of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Stevens Ave. residences. To find a neighborhood similar today as this was in my youth, you must drive about 30 miles south-across the Minnesota River and beyond. This has happened in all directions outward from the Twin Cities in my lifetime!

We should realize and understand what happened! Obviously, the expansion of our country’s human population, much of it expanding into Minnesota and our wildlife habitats and our personal habitats. What are Environmental Conservationists to do? Should we say “this is for someone else to decide?” or “it’s a world problem we can do little about?”

At the risk of being ostracized, I would suggest we become as active on the population problem as any other issue. It is basic! And the responsibility to correct problems as obviously important as overpopulation should be one of all sincere Conservationists’ concerns.

Many will say it is built into our countries’ heritage to “take in the poor, the underprivileged and the dispossessed.” This was the thought of “Nation Builders” as they methodically persecuted and “dispossessed” the American Indians. Now we have no “need” for such atrocities. We have stolen and possessed their land and since are overpopulating it.

To halt overpopulation various incentives need to be introduced and curtailing immigration to much reduced numbers is most important at this time. Reduction of our country’s population will be our best gift to our nation’s future to keep future U.S. citizens from being the “downtrodden and dispossessed”.

Think more than 7 generations! It took something like 30 years for the majority of U.S. citizens to realize the facts about “climate change”. How long will it take to realize the very basic problem of overpopulation?

The wise farmer knows when to limit the size of the herd in a given sized pasture. Can the majority of people and politicians understand that simple equation? And how soon?

*Dick Brown*

## **Better choice for landscaping**

“Stop, smell the lilacs” was the title of a Strib editorial Thursday, May 20. My neighbor and I have over 200 ft. of Lilacs planted mostly 60-80 years ago. Beauty and sweet aroma! However, I would not plant them again. Lilacs are not native, are practically of no use to pollinators and supply no food for birds or animals. Lilacs are used by birds somewhat for nesting, but so are many more desirable native shrubs that supply both seasonal beauty, nesting and abundant food for wildlife. Let’s help wildlife, including pollinators by planting the “right stuff”. They too can look and smell good and therefore are much better!

*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 last 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.

### **Chapter House Rental Rates**

Non-Members:

(damage deposit: \$300.00; \$200 for previous renters)

Monday through Thursday .....\$275.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays.....\$350.00

Members:(damage deposit \$100.00)

Monday through Thursday .....\$125.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays.....\$175.00

Boy Scouts:(damage deposit \$50.00)

Overnights.....\$50.00\*

Rates and terms subject to change without notice;  
please contact the Chapter for special circumstances.

Rental Chairperson: Tim Johnson  
(Leave messages at 763-561-5364)

**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)  
May 28 - Judy Arnold  
June 25 - Mary Ellen/Sylvia  
July 23 - John Borer  
August 27 -**