



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
August 2020

www.breckenridgeikes.org

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2020

11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm

SEPTEMBER 2020

8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm

Wes was a warm and jovial man, always laughing and making jokes. He lived his life to the fullest through simple pleasures like ice cream, sketching and chatting with loved ones. His joyful energy will be missed by so many.

A memorial service will be held Monday August 24th at 2 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 7217 West Broadway Ave, Brooklyn Park, MN. It will be outside weather permitting and able to viewed on Facebook Live on the church's page.

Wes was a very vital member of the Breckenridge Chapter and will be sorely missed.

In memory...Wes Hendrickson

Westly John Hendrickson, 81 years of age, died peacefully on August 16, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judy Hendrickson, his three children Kate, Kristina, and Matthew, and three grandchildren Zach, Ella and Sawyer.

He was born one of four brothers in a farmhouse in Shell Lake Township, Minnesota and spent his early years going to a one-room schoolhouse and running around the farm. He graduated with a degree in architecture from NDSU and a master's degree in urban planning from Washington State University. In his adult years he worked as an architect at TKDA. There he designed buildings that will stand tall for years to come, his legacy for both his family and Minnesota.

He was very civically active throughout his life with The Lion's Club, Habitat for Humanity, The Izaak Walton League and the DFL. Wes also served as an election judge. In addition to spending his days helping his community he also kept his mind active by taking elder learning classes at the University of Minnesota. He was also very active in environmental issues and wildlife preservation.



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting August 12, 2020

In discussion before the meeting Jim reported on the Ikes' recent Zoom presentation by Mike Schrage, who does work for the Fond du Lac band of Chippewa. The talk was about elk reintroduction to NE Minnesota. Jim said that they are still trying to find funding for the project and that permits and legislation still needed to be obtained.

Steve talked about future meeting plans and how to move forward with presenting two awards that had been planned to be given at a monthly social meeting. Tim suggested writing up something about the awardees for *Timberlines* and have a Board member deliver the plaques to them at their homes. Steve will write up the awards for *Timberlines*.

Steve gave his assessment of the road ahead with the pandemic. He said the news is not good and he doesn't see us having our Social/Education meetings for months or until a vaccine is available.

Board of directors ZOOM meeting, called to order by Steve Schaust at 7:15 pm
Members present on Zoom call: Steve Schaust, Tim Johnson, Barb Franklin, Dick Brown, Jerry Steele, Wendy Steele, Karen Ostenso, Dennis Leslie, Joe Klohs and Jim Arnold

New signs and mailbox installed – look great. Another round reflective sign will be ordered to attach to other side of mailbox for southbound traffic.

Tim presented a short summary of John Moriarty's grounds survey of our property done to give us recommendations on management.

There is a large basswood tree leaning heavily over the gazebo and another one hanging over the stairs and railings to the river deck – Tom Reid has been contacted for recommendations and estimate for removal.

Gazebo: Very little used and requires maintenance – a motion was made by Tim to donate the gazebo to the Arnolds who live next door and who have agreed to take it off our hands. Dick seconded. Motion passed. Jim may ask for able-bodied members to help move it.

Jerry mentioned that the bike rack is overgrown with wild flowers – Tim will move it and trim the wildflowers back.

Karen has donated a picture for the women's restroom that needs a frame – Jerry will make a frame for it. Tim has a photo he took of our river bank and will frame and donate it for use in the entryway to the restrooms.

Karen updated the Board on documents we have for archiving. She asked for all members to let her know what other documents are out there in people's homes? She also asked for advice on what documents we need to keep? A motion to dedicate up to \$250 to order materials to organize Chapter documents and an 8' table cloth with the IWLA logo was made by Joe. Jerry seconded and the motion passed.

The closet door is kept locked with file cabinets inside in which we will store documents – Additional cabinet lock procurement was tabled for now.

Joe attended a meeting sponsored by our City and Hennepin County regarding erosion control along the Mississippi River bank. He thinks we might be able to host upcoming project meetings at the chapter house. He will send Board members copies of the map of properties affected. The map is color coded with red being the properties in worst condition. The chapter house falls into this category.

Meeting ended at 8:28 pm.

How Best to Manage Habitat On the Chapter House Grounds

Reported by Tim Johnson



One of the things that is obvious to a naturalist when driving into the Breckenridge Chapter property is that the deer browsing is intense. Almost everything has been nibbled on, even the buckthorn. Perhaps the garlic mustard is the only thing they haven't touched. Frequently a whitetail deer or two will just casually glance your way as you approach down the driveway before turning away to go on browsing.

Although the property encompasses a few acres of what John Moriarty (Chapter member and Senior Manager of Wildlife at Three Rivers Park District) says would have been a maple basswood climax forest (if left alone with fewer deer making it home). The surrounding development has created the "edge" phenomena which is ideal habitat for whitetail deer. Just as the lawns along our rivers and lakes create ideal food for Canada geese, so the suburban forest "edges" allow in the right amount of sunlight for the plants deer need to thrive.

John agreed to come over and meet with a few members and give us advice on managing our natural surroundings just as he did last year on Banfill Island. As we walked through the property



he observed that the forest floor seemed to have many of the native sedges and forbs one would expect in a healthy forest even though most were cropped short by the deer. The many large white and burr oak trees are relicts from the time when fire dependent oak savanna was the predominant biome before the settlement by European immigrants. The many young green ash trees will almost certainly soon die from the emerald ash borer infestation sweeping the state. There are almost no young tree saplings of any species although there are many seedlings which will probably never amount to anything due to over-browsing. We were congratulated by John on the good job we have done in the past years controlling the once rampant buckthorn infestation.

Asked about removing some of the dead or dying trees, John said we should leave dead wood standing for improved habitat unless it is threatening people or structures. Once down it should be left lying unless aesthetics requires removal. If trees are taken down by an arborist, he said we should not spread wood chips over the forest floor deeper than 2 inches, unless specifically desired for a chip walkway (which would need renewal every few years).



The City of Brooklyn Park already coordinates fall season deer bow hunts including on our Banfill Island. Chapter President Steve Schaust, who speaks for our Chapter regarding permission for the hunts, has reported back that the City is satisfied with results. Their metric is deer-automobile accidents which have decreased by around two-thirds. To increase the take and bring the deer into natural balance with the plant community, we need to think of something else in addition. One option Moriarty suggested, would be to see if we could get consent from our immediate neighbors to have the archers set up a tree stand near the Chapter House.

The problem would not be stray arrows, but rather deer falling a few steps beyond the property line. Even well shot deer will often run a little way before they drop and some people are squeamish about seeing the circle of life completed in their front yards.

Answering an inquiry of ours, John talked about options for temporary deer exclusion fences on the property. He said they would need to be maintained for a decade or so to allow the young woody plants to attain heights beyond the deer's reach. Deer can easily leap over a six foot fence and our City requires permits for anything over 7 feet. At a minimum he suggested we would need an eight foot fence for an exclusion and there would need to be a door to allow us to let out any deer, were they to somehow enter. Using fencing staples (only partially pounded in and on the inside corners) on standing trees would eliminate the expense of installing posts. Creating long rectangular exclusions, say 10 x 50 feet is more effective than square shaped areas of the equal area. The deer apparently are less likely to try to jump if they can see the other side of the fence so close by.

Turning to another grounds keeping issue, our boulevard flower planting of native forbs, John suggested contacting our local fire department to see if they would stand by while we burned the area in the spring. The "no-mow" fescue grass in the area is very competitive with the forbs and there are hundreds of volunteer non-native (Siberian) elm seedlings getting a toehold in the area. A periodic prescribed burn would solve the problem as it does in typical prairie restorations.

A third management question we had for John concerned the accelerated riverbank erosion which has been forming some gullies, destroying a section of our river walk path and washing sediment down river. Climate change with its associated increase in precipitation has set records for flow along our section of the Mississippi in the past few years. The City of Brooklyn Park and Hennepin County are seeking grant funding to address the problem along much of the western bluff of the Mississippi. The question was how to balance the habitat needs of our riparian native species with the protection of man-made structures near the banks. John is the author of the recently published *A Field Guide to*

the Natural World of the Twin Cities and has a deep concern for the preservation of what is left of nature in and around the built environment. John guessed our Chapter House would not be endangered for a couple of centuries at the current rate of erosion. He said personally, he would tolerate the loss of a few trees to the river now and then. He pointed out that the real problem with sediment comes from agricultural practices on land up and downstream. The engineering details of the City's proposed project have not been worked out at this time but our Chapter, and all riverfront landowners in Brooklyn Park, will have final say as to whether to participate in the "armoring" of the riverbank.

Our hope as a Chapter is to discuss John's advice and to prioritize what actions we should take next. Stay tuned for decisions coming in the future from our Board of Directors.



Humpback whales good news

By Karen Ostenso

The July 30th episode of “As It Happens” on The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation included an interview with a whale researcher at Glacier National Park in Alaska. She is in her 30th year monitoring humpback whales and their reproductivity.

The mothers migrate from Hawaii to the waters near Alaska to give birth to their calves. Rates of reproduction have been decreasing since 2013, presumably due to warming water temperatures. In recent years, it was typical to see one or two calves, and one year there were none. So far this year she has seen 16 mother/calf pairs!! She is thrilled!!

The reason for the remarkable increase is the almost total lack of noise from boat traffic during our economic shutdown. Whales use sound to communicate and navigate, so it is so much easier this year. They are able to feed better, travel farther from their calves, and have larger territory.

The researcher listens underwater, hearing differences in how they communicate compared to other years. They are louder, repeat more often, and shift frequency. She feels they are more relaxed and her co-workers plan to test the whales' level of stress hormones.

Additionally, this year she sees whales closer to shore, socializing, feeding and resting. Dare I say they sound HAPPY?

Let's hear it for baby humpbacks



Walking stick and the skin it just shed!
Photo by Larry Kennebeck

Perception of Wisdom

An Opinion piece in the newspaper quotes Mark Twain: “When I was 14, my father was the stupidest man in the world. By the time I was 21, I was amazed how much the old man learned in seven years.” This got me to thinking: Since I am now 93, have my boys noticed whether I have learned anything in the last 79 years? I am afraid to ask!

Dick Brown

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)



Photo by Tim Johnson of the river and our native verbenastate (Blue Vervain)



Our new mailbox (donated by our late Board member Wes Hendrickson) and reflective sign. (One will be added on the north side as well.)



Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

Heather Holm – Author of multiple books on Bees, Pollinators, and Native Plants

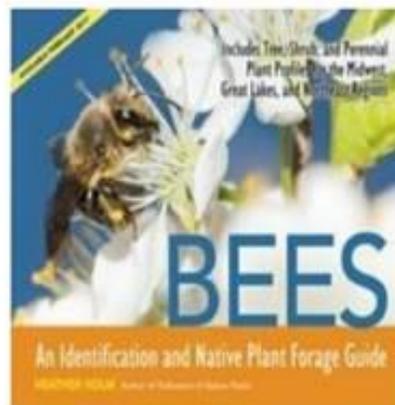
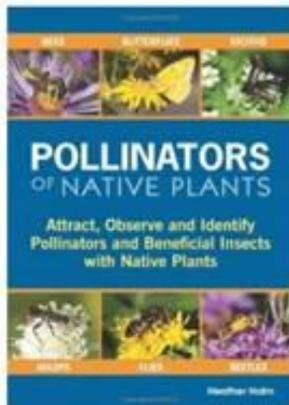
Wednesday August 26
6:00pm – 7:00pm
Zoom Meeting
Click on the link at
6:00pm



Most insects have a positive impact in our landscapes. Native plants can be selected to attract specific bees and beneficial insects including predatory and parasitic wasps, beetles, flies, true bugs, and lacewings. Learn about the predator-prey relationships of these flower-visiting beneficial insects and how they help keep problem insect populations in balance. The life cycles, diversity, and nesting habitat of native bees will also be covered along with examples of native plants for different site conditions.

Heather Holm is the author of:

- Pollinators of Native Plants
- Bees: An Identification and Native Plant and Forage



This program is sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433005832>

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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
Deadline is the 10th 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.



What will the future be like in the year 2050? A mere three decades away, most of us hope to still be around. So, what kind of future are we riding into? *Endgame 2050* gives us a glimpse into that future, and it does not look good. Humanity has backed itself into an ecological endgame as we approach mid-century.

I highly recommended the film *Endgame 2050*, which I just watched this afternoon. Here's a bit about the video and the filmmaker, physician and environmentalist Sofia Pineda Ochoa.

<https://www.endgame2050.com/about>

And here's a link to the film itself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8YomEOExkc>

It might be worthy of a program if/when we have them again.

Barb Franklin