



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
May 2025

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

May 2025

- 1 Friends of the MN Scientific and Natural Areas 10th Anniversary
- 3 Pancake Breakfast setup
- 4 **Pancake Breakfast 8 am-1 pm**
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
John Moriarty – Artists & Naturalists at the Bell Museum

June 2025

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
(Tentative) Peter Sorenson PhD (Professor Emeritus from U of M Dept of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology)
Sharing some of his not yet published new data on the topic of roughfish with a review of all of Minnesota's fish and covering all aspects of their exploitation, including bowfishing.

July 2025

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
(Tentative) Diane Hirigoyen
As an ambassador for the The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation Diane will have lots to share about the catastrophic worldwide decline in invertebrates and what we can do to reverse it. In preparation for this talk we should all watch *Bugs That Rule the World* on tpt.org playing in 8 episodes over the next couple of months.

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday, May 27 7:30 pm

John Moriarty – Artists & Naturalists at the Bell Museum

John Moriarty former senior manager of wildlife at Three Rivers Park District, author of several books on reptiles and turtles, and a longtime member of the Breckenridge Chapter, will present artwork from the early days of the Minnesota Natural



History Survey in the late 1800's to the art displayed today. The presentation will cover many aspects of work done for the Bell but will center around the work done for *Birds of Minnesota* and the Museum dioramas. Francis Lee Jaques' and Walter J. Breckenridge's contributions to the museum and beyond will be highlighted.

Preventing Further Spread of Aquatic Invasives

Being located directly on the banks of the Mississippi, our members have a special interest in the issue of aquatic invasive species. We were therefore pleased to hear a presentation last month on the subject from the DNR's invasive fish specialist, Grace Loppnow PhD. Even though her specialty is fish, her talk was not confined to fish only, but gave us an understanding of her department's work on preventing and controlling the wide range of invasive aquatic species <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>
The key intervention for preventing the spread of many AIS is "Clean In Clean Out" https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html



During a Q&A session after her talk, Grace expressed an optimistic outlook on the chances of long-term success in preventing the upstream movement of invasive carp. Her estimate is that the

BAFF (bio-acoustic fish fence: bubbles, sound and lights) being installed at lock and dam #5 will have a 50% success rate (carp circle back and attempt repeatedly to bypass such barriers). She sees ongoing carp removal below the dam by commercial fishermen as important in preventing carp grouping up below the dam and moving through when the river floods. That along with dam gate deterrents at Lock and Dam 5 are key pieces and will buy us time while we search for even better means of control. Grace is pushing for establishing a deterrent at Lock and Dam 15 between Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, in the "Quad Cities," just upstream of the invasion front for bighead, grass, and silver carp, where reproduction is occurring intermittently. The spillway gates open relatively infrequently at this location, and it often serves as a barrier to fish movement.

The invasion of black carp (a very large fish that can weigh 150 pounds and grow to five feet) into our section of the Mississippi is one of Grace's nightmares. The DNR website says "adults feed primarily on mollusks using their pharyngeal (throat) teeth to crush the shells. Black carp are native to eastern Asia. They were unintentionally introduced to the United States in a grass carp shipment from Asia in the 1970s. Large flood events allowed the species to escape into the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, where they reproduced and established wild populations. Recent sightings in the Illinois and Ohio rivers have been made" which suggests the population is expanding below Lock and Dam 15. A barrier there would protect the Mississippi waters upstream.

Reported by Tim Johnson

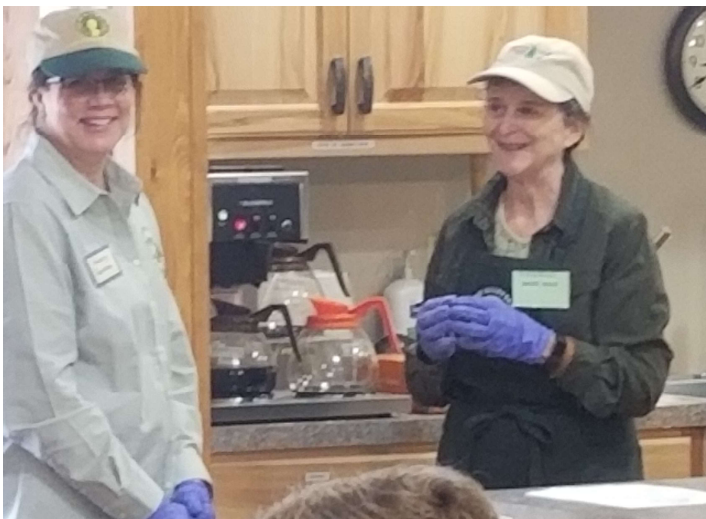


Pancake Breakfast a Success

Although attendance was down a little this year, the Pancake Breakfast was a great showing of teamwork: a good chapter event, a great neighborhood activity and a gorgeous day and some new members signed up. All that and we made a profit. Treasurer Sue Schmidt reports that we took in \$1370 and spent \$598.12 on supplies, some of which will be used throughout the year, so we have a net profit of \$791.88.

Thanks to everyone that helped and attended to make this such a successful event. Good job everyone!! And thanks to our photographers, Larry Kennebeck and Karen Ostenso.





Frightening News

This article was written by Sarah Kaplan for The Washington Post and summarized by Karen Ostenso

An article in the Minnesota Star Tribune of Sunday, April 20, was full of bad and worrisome news. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported a dramatic increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It was 27% larger than the record increase of 2015! This level has not been seen in 3 million years!

The burning of fossil fuels is the primary source of planet-warming gasses. The 2024 increase, however, was beyond what fossil fuel could have caused. NOAA suggests that the loss of carbon sinks, places that absorb carbon, drove the alarming change. Such sinks are mainly comprised of forests and other land formations.

It should be noted that President Trump, who calls climate change a “hoax”, is attempting to gut climate modeling at NOAA (reducing NOAA's overall budget by 27%) and firing a huge portion of its staff. He is also trying to dismantle other agencies who research climate change.

Extreme heat and drought prevent photosynthesis and growth of trees. Combined with loss of forests due to cutting and wildfires, the amount of carbon absorbed naturally has decreased. The drought and fires also unleashed previously stored carbon. After centuries of relying on places such as the Amazon to minimize carbon release, we have probably begun to tip the balance between sequestering and release; that is, releasing more than sequestering.

Land based ecosystems have historically absorbed about 30% of the carbon we emit. Unfortunately logging or wildfires unleash hundreds of years of stored carbon in as little as a single day. Such information is available because NOAA has monitoring stations throughout our hemisphere. Agencies in various parts of the world collect comparable data, so a worldwide picture of carbon pollution is known.

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter
Membership Application:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues are subject to change.

Please make check payable to: IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Membership Dues:

Individual: 71.50

Family: 99.00

Student: 43.00

Mail to:

Karen Ostenso

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Minneapolis, MN 55412

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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 First 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*

Current Members who are in good standing only
(damage deposit: \$200.00; \$100 for previous renters)

Monday through Thursday.....\$150.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays.....\$200.00

Scouts: (damage deposit \$50.00)

Overnights.....\$50.00

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

The Rental Agreement and Renters Checkout List are available on our
website by clicking
here.

For availability, please contact Tim Johnson by email johns860@mac.com