



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
April 2020

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

APRIL 2020

22 Earth Day

MAY 2020

A note from Jerry Steele

The bathroom remodel is complete. As a new member of the board it was a great opportunity to get to know fellow members a little better while working on the project. The teamwork and camaraderie was an awesome experience, from planning conception to the finished product. Notable care was taken to select fixtures that support water conservation and a color theme that represents earth and sky. Our volunteer upcoming architect from the University of Minnesota, Savannah Steele, did research on maintaining ADA compliance as much as possible and also assisted the committee in shopping for fixtures and accessories. We are so proud of our new bathrooms and hope you will enjoy them for many years to come!

*Thank you!
Sincerely,
Jerry Steele*

And thank you, Jerry, for an excellent job!

Test your knowledge:
What is this bird?



Answer on p 6

From the Editor:

With everything being canceled for the next couple of months I'm a little short on material for *Timberlines* Please feel free to share what you've been seeing, hearing and enjoying in the natural world that helps you cope with our self-imposed isolation! I'd love to hear from you! Now or anytime!

One report from Carol Parks:

I have been up to Coon Rapids dam looking for the migrating birds coming back. The osprey is back on the tower. I've only seen one so it may be waiting for the mate. Hoping it did not catch Covid19. I was hoping to see a loon or 2 coming through, but have not.



Mining Threats to the Boundary Waters Wilderness



**Executive Director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters
Former Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Tom Landwehr will be speaking about threats to the pristine waters of the BWCA**

Monday April 20 at 6:00pm
Online / Zoom Meeting
Click on the link in email at 6:00pm

Online Zoom Meeting
Monday, April 20 6pm
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/931343051>



Tom is a lifelong Minnesotan raised in an outdoors-oriented family. He received Bachelors and Masters degrees in Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota, and a Masters of Business Administration from the Carlson School, University of Minnesota.

He began his career with the Minnesota DNR in 1982 as a research technician. He subsequently held wildlife manager jobs in Shakopee, Madison and Owatonna. He became the DNR's first Wetland Wildlife Program Leader, working on policies to conserve the state's wetlands.

In 1999, Tom joined Ducks Unlimited, as State Conservation Director overseeing conservation programs in Minnesota and Iowa. In 2003 he became the Assistant State Director for The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

In 2011, Governor Mark Dayton appointed Tom as the Commissioner of the Minnesota DNR, and he served in that position through 2019.

In 2019, Tom joined Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness as its Executive Director. With a staff of about 18, NMW's chief initiative is the **Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters** - created to fight the development of a sulfide-ore copper mine on the doorstep of the BWCAW. Through education, advocacy, litigation and organizing, the Campaign is battling on multiple fronts to prevent this foreign-owned project from devastating America's favorite wilderness.

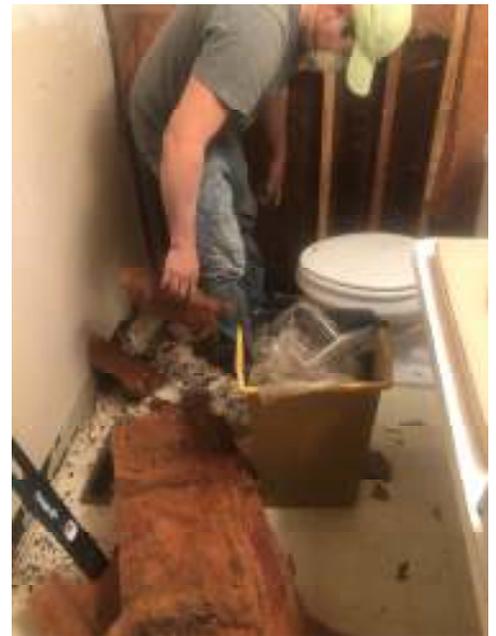
This program is sponsored by the Save the Boundary Waters Campaign and the Minnesota Valley Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

Bathroom Remodeling

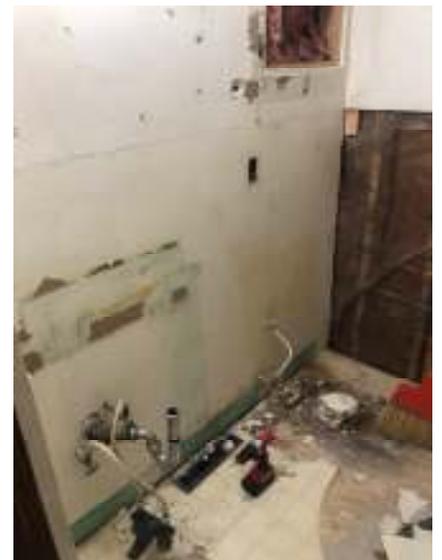
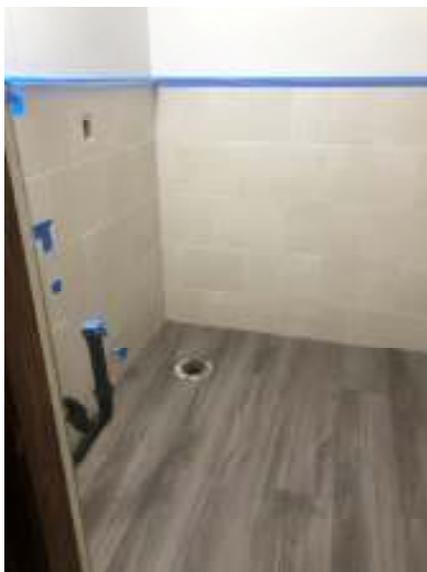
Removal of old wallpaper



Removal of wet insulation, including a mouse nest and replacement of vapor barrier



Plumbing replacement



Bathroom remodeling by committee

The issue of remodeling the bathrooms began before April of 2019, probably much earlier. There was no concern about the functionality of the fixtures, but wear and tear had become obvious. The roof had been replaced, a new furnace had been installed, the exterior had been refinished, and now it was the bathrooms' turn.

Several people volunteered to work on it, and by September of this year, some concrete action was started. Fortunately the volunteers had a variety of skills. Planning, measuring, discussion of fixtures, pricing, selection of colors, etc. got underway.

How many small group meetings were held before any actual destruction/construction began? I don't know! It was a lot. Joe Klohs and Jerry Steele discussed the structural situation, plumbing, finding skilled workers, and, no doubt, other issues.

Wendy Steele, Judy Klohs, Savannah (Wendy & Jerry's daughter, who is getting a degree in architecture) and I looked at concept and color ideas that Savannah had drawn up. We then met at Menards, once on a very cold evening, twice in all, to select tiles, lighting fixtures, mirrors, sinks, faucets, toilet stools, paint, towel dispensers, etc. etc. I wish I had measured how much time we spent looking at mirrors and discussing them! And, as it turned out, we didn't buy any of them. Jerry knows someone who makes custom mirrors, which were needed to work around hanging them in a gap in the tile. And they look terrific! And how about tiles?

Just how many shades of gray, beige and cream are there! In any case, we had fun deciding. I wonder if Jerry and Joe had as much fun as we did?

Serious work began in late February. Jerry bore the heaviest load throughout the tear-out and construction. He knew a craftsman named Jose, who was there doing all phases of the work. I think he was there the bulk of 3 weeks. I think it was Joe and Jerry who dealt with recycling and disposing of all materials. Judy painted the ceilings and walls.

Shortly before the tear-out began, the committee had a final group meeting to finish the nitty-gritty planning and selection of fixtures. We met at Klohs' and I seem to remember a bottle of wine showing up on the coffee table.

This is a brief synopsis of what actually occurred. I feel like there were many more steps and details that I was not closely involved with. I apologize for any omissions I have made.

Working as a group on this type of project was a new experience for me. I gained tremendous respect for all those involved. I look forward to everyone checking out the new bathrooms at the first opportunity, and you can decide if a "bathroom subcommittee" can produce a good outcome. Thank you to all who put in so much time and effort and we hope you will like the upgraded bathrooms.

Karen Ostenso

Et voilà! Enjoy our beautiful new bathrooms!



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Nature not canceled; spring arriving on time

Apr 5, 2020

While society grapples with the disruptive and sometimes tragic situations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, one sector of our world is providing a refuge from our troubles: nature. The birds are arriving from their winter homes, early vegetation is beginning to sprout, and the ice continues retreating from the lakeshore's edge. Soon warm breezes and spring rains will bring more and more life to our backyards, parks and natural areas, as nature awakens from its winter rest.

Minnesota's "Stay at Home" order (Executive Order 20-20) explicitly allows individuals to get outside, be in nature, enjoy parks and recreational lands, and to walk, hike, bike, hunt or fish. What a wonderful opportunity to discover (or rediscover) a love of the outdoors! Perhaps when the crisis is over, one lasting impact will be a reconnection of people to their environment, and a new understanding of how our everyday actions impact the natural world.

As we are forced to slow down and take a pause from life's normally rushed activities, we have an opportunity to find peace and calm in the delicate unfurling of baby spring leaves and the smell of soil after a rain. We have time to be still and quiet, to be observant and perhaps witness the coming of spring as we've never done before.

There is another benefit to the world slowing down—our air is getting cleaner. In China, Europe and in large cities across the United States, our lower activity level is resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions. While this situation might not last, it's clear that our daily lives really do make a difference, and that changing our collective behaviors really could move the needle on addressing climate change. And perhaps this crash course on social distancing will have a long-term effect of more meetings via video conferencing, and less traveling across town to meet in person.

If you're itching for something meaningful to do, there are many small actions we can take as

individuals that collectively add up to improved natural resources—like waters and habitats. Just think if we all planted just a corner of our yards with native flowers and plants for birds, bees and butterflies, what a difference that could make. Since 80% of land in Minnesota is privately owned, it's really up to each of us to help reverse the alarming trend of declining biodiversity and native habitats.

Similarly, we can all play a role in cleaning up our lakes and streams! Most water pollution comes from "non-point sources," meaning the pollution isn't coming from a single pipe (or "point source") it's coming in little bits all over. Leaves, soil, grass clippings, pet waste, salt and other pollutants often wash off hard surfaces right into our water bodies. Keeping driveways, streets, parking lots and sidewalks clean means the debris won't end up creating algae blooms and harming aquatic life in our favorite lake or stream. And, since the pollution is so widespread, no city or agency can be everywhere all the time sweeping up after each one of us. So, while you're out for a walk, bring a broom and a bucket to clean off storm drains and sweep up the street in front of your house. If you want these actions to be officially "counted," register to adopt your storm drain adopt-a-drain.org!

In the wake of this strange time when we are all working to "flatten the curve" of the pandemic, we can also flatten the curves of various environmental problems and seize this opportunity to make those small, everyday changes that can add up to a big impact. We are all in this together, so let's work together to care for not only each other, but the beautiful world that we have.

Dawn Pape is outreach and education coordinator for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission. Comments are welcome at dawn@lawnchairgardener.com. Get information at bassettcreekwmo.org.

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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.

Founding members

This document (previously residing in the basement) is now hanging on the wall near the bathroom entry. It dates from the founding of the Chapter and is signed by the original members.



Answer to “What is this bird?” It’s a Varied Thrush, common to the west coast, but occasionally found off-course on the Mississippi migration route – which is right here.

And for your listening enjoyment...
A Bird Song Opera!

<http://volkerpannes.de/portfolio/bird-song-opera/>

