



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League March 2015

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



### Coming Events



#### March

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00  
24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30  
*Paul Danicic*, Executive Director of  
the Friends of the Boundary Waters  
Wilderness



#### April

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00  
28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30



#### May

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00  
26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

Social/Educational Meeting Speaker  
March 24, 2015 7:30 PM

### The Status of Sulfide Mining and Emerging Issues for the BWCA

Paul Danicic , Executive Director of Friends of the Boundary Waters, will be the presenter at our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Sulfide mining would forever change the character of northern Minnesota's lakes and streams. Friends of the Boundary Waters has been working on this important issue for many years and is involved in every effort to prevent it from harming America's number one wilderness. This presentation will be an update on sulfide mining proposals, as well as other issues facing the Boundary Waters.



# Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
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.

February 10<sup>th</sup> .....Board of Directors Meeting  
February 24<sup>th</sup> .....Social/Educational Meeting  
March 10<sup>th</sup> .....Board of Directors Meeting  
March 24<sup>th</sup> .....Social/Educational Meeting

**Attendees:** Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Tim Johnson, Barbara Franklin, Wes Hendrickson **Guest:** Marlys Carls-Steiskal

**Events/Issues.....**Dick/Larry/Jim  
Social/Education Meeting Speakers  
February - Don Arnosti, Conservation Program Director for the Minnesota Division

March – *Paul Danicic*, Executive Director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

April – Open

Clean Water Forum is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> and is being held at Green Haven Golf Course in Anoka. The event is sponsored by the Rotary Club, and includes panelists and open discussion that highlights the issues surrounding water in our community and around the world.

Watershed Summit 2015: New Management Barriers/ Solutions to Accelerate Ag Conservation Is scheduled for February 21st and is being held at Normandale Community College.

The Annual Meeting and State Convention is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and this year will be held at the Prairie Woods Chapter in Detroit Lakes.

2015 IWLA National Convention is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> and this year will be held in Pierre, SD. You don't have to be an official delegate to attend the convention. It's open to every league member.

The Summer Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, location to be announced.

Springbrook Nature Center will be holding their annual auction fundraiser which includes dinner and a program (Beez Kneez). The date is Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Five members from The Friends of the SNA group took the opportunity to introduce themselves by attending the Commissioner's Advisory Committee (CAC) on Natural Heritage meeting

that was held on February 4th. The meeting was very informative and found the committee members were all very talented and knowledgeable. For more information <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cac.html>

The date for the Pancake Breakfast has been set for Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award, recognizes professional educators and others who teach all of us to value natural resources. It has been suggested that we nominate Dr. Lee Frelich who is the director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology. Jim Arnold made a motion to nominate Dr. Lee Frelich for the Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award and it was seconded. Motion passed.

**Chapter House & Grounds** .....Joe/Jim/Steve  
Fireplace repair update - No updates at this time.  
Kitchen remodel update – At our last meeting, the Task Force invited Jason Newby from the City of Brooklyn Park to answer questions on the licensing requirements for commercial kitchens. It was determined that

based on our direction for the kitchens use, that we would fall under the under the Minnesota Statutes Section 157.22 for Exemptions which does not require any special licensing. Also in attendance, was Carol Knutson from Spectacular Catering, who provided us with suggestion for improvements from a caterer's perspective.

**Newsletter** ..... Marlys  
Update was given and a reminder that we are always looking for articles.

**Treasurer's Report** ..... John  
Update was given

**Scholarship Committee** .....Jim  
Scholarship application materials have been sent out to local schools. The application deadline for the 2015 -2016 school year is April 11.

**Webmaster** ..... Barb  
Update was given

**Rentals** ..... Tim  
Three rentals have been booked for the month of February and currently there are no rentals for March.

**Membership**.....Lorraine  
Members---85 (New 6, Not Renewed. 13)

## BOOSTING NATIVE POLLINATOR POPULATIONS

Why do I stress Native Pollinators?

1. Because they are part of our "Natural Heritage" which I am always in favor of preserving as much as possible.
  2. Because they do a better job pollinizing our Native plants and do quite adequately on cultivated plants.
  3. Because their nests are seldom visible to the general public, therefore not subject to unscientific criticism.
  4. Because there is no necessity of week to week monitoring and seasonal "retiring" of tame Bees.
  5. Because In towns with minimal size lots and parks with heavy pedestrian traffic the urge for vandalism of hives could be serious.
- Because there is no initial cost of purchasing a hive, supers or Queen Bees.

However, for one who has the ambition, the tools and proper site; Bee keeping can be an educational hobby which will produce a food benefit to the Beekeeper and the pollination of neighboring gardens.

It has been said that occasionally tame Honey Bees can be a detriment to native Bees through competition and possible disease. There are many native pollinators besides the common Bumble Bee, which is easily recognizable. There are many types of wild Bees and a similar amount of pollinating Flies in Minnesota. Various kinds of Butterflies, Dragonflies, Beetles and Moths are also persistent natural pollinators. As a general rule, native flowers, trees, shrubs and grasses are the best habitat for increasing the population of all of the above mentioned pollinators.

Native plants are generally best for various reasons:

1. Most are more drought resistant than cultivars (deep roots).
  2. They are generally easier to plant and sow.
  3. Are generally richer in pollen and nectar.
- Most have their pollen and nectar more accessible to pollinators than some cultivars. Late March-Oct.

An important thing to remember: pollinators need plants that bloom in April through September and should be selected for that long range of bloom. An added bonus is that local and migrating song birds feast on the generally more nutritious native plant seeds, both fall and spring. Most song birds raise their young on insects that prefer native plants. So; let's respect our Bees, Birds, Butterflies and Bugs that pollinate our woodlands, fields, flowers, prairies and gardens.

Opinion Dick Brown

## OPINION PARTIAL LIST OF NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIVE POLLINATORS EXAMPLES OF EARLY BLOOM:

TREES: American Basswood, Chokecherry

SHRUBS: Pussy Willow, Common Serviceberry (Juneberry)

TALL PERENIALS: White Wild Indigo, Tall Bell Flowers (s) Sweet Joe Pye Weed (s), Golden Alexanders (s)

SHORT PERENIALS: Wild Lupine, Eastern Waterleaf (s), Spotted Geranium, Columbine (s)

EXAMPLES OF LATE BLOOMERS:

TALL PERENIALS: New England Aster, Showy Goldenrod, Zigzag Goldenrod, Smooth Blue Aster

SHORT PERENIALS: Riddell's Goldenrod, Zigzag Goldenrod, White Heath Aster

Probably the latest blooming shrub is Witch Hazel (Hamamelis Virginiana) (s) which blooms in October and disperses the preceding year's seeds in October up to 30' from the plant.

This is a partial list of native plants prescribed for our area by the Xerces Society and Prairie Moon Nursery.

\*\* (s) shade to partial shade

Dick Brown



### Kitchen Committee Field Trip to A-Z Restaurant Equipment



Barb Franklin, Patrice Lindgren, Joe and Judy Klohs. And Diane Sannes

The kitchen task force can report that the fact finding, code compliance requirements and design stages of the project are nearing completion and will be presented to the Board for approval at the March Board Meeting.

## Watershed Summit 2015 Dell Erickson

On Saturday February 21, 2015 Watershed Summit 2015 was held at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. This year’s Summit was sponsored by the Minnesota Division of the IWLA and the Freshwater Society. The theme was “Barriers and Solutions to Accelerate Ag Conservation”.



Jill Crafton from the Minnesota Division did an outstanding job as master of ceremonies. We thank her and all the others working behind the scene in bringing this important and practical conference together.

Yours truly, Dick Brown, and Larry Kennebeck represented the Breckenridge Chapter.



There were two overarching themes with nine separate presentations focusing on agriculture and water quality in Minnesota.

Darrell Gerber (right) of the Freshwater Society described some of the barrier issues. He said Minnesota has a “mismatch of water quality goals” and current practices. He said “funding local (farmers) and governments to better match solutions and problems” is needed. He and other presenters said establishing



relationships with famers and local governments is also part of the solution.

The Governor’s 50’ buffer proposal was favorably mentioned. The Ikes and others will emphatically support the Governor in this effort. In my view however, there is some concern with the proposal as first presented. It is inconsistent with idea of buffers to allow haying, grazing, and mowing. No doubt this is due to pressure from the cattle interests. Cattle in moving about in public waterways and stomping, etc., on buffers is contrary to the very notion of buffers. Indeed, since it creates more feed for cattle, a consequence could be increased numbers of cattle and additional pollution associated with them; and essentially it’s unregulated. As we understand, mowing and haying a natural area destroys an entire ecological niche and with it most of its water quality, pollution, wildlife, and habitat benefits.

In a Q & A Don Arnosti, Minnesota Conservation Director, asked a very sensible question. Couldn’t the

\$2 billion being spent on the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion be better spent on other things –the environment and ecology of the area which would moderate flooding and provide numerous other benefits? A response was not particularly forthcoming. Dick Brown, W. Breckenridge Chapter Conservation Chair, in a subsequent Chapter Lodge meeting said, feeling a bit “irascible”, he said, that “the only thing he took away from the conference was that ditches” are really not regulated.

The \$2 billion Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion scheme (literally a giant ditch) is composed of a network of 50’ wide aqueducts, a more than 1500’ wide diversion channel over 36 miles long, plus levees, and etc. In addition to Arnosti’s insightful question I would have been more direct, adding the project is senseless and impractical.

These cities are built on a river bed, not simply a floodplain. Like the annual Nile river floods that bring nutrients to the lands making them able to provide life sustaining food for millions, repeated flooding in the Fargo-Moorhead region is a reason for the excellent and profitable crops growing in the region. Growing crops and natural areas is the attraction of the region; developing cities is costly, counterproductive and unwise.

There were also presentations illustrating targeting fertilizer applications to economize use, the role of watershed districts in Ag conservation planning, and buffers, sizes, roles, issues. We’ll be hearing much more regarding buffers. There were two presentations discussing certification programs. Bill Fitzgerald from the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture said certificate programs provide “regulatory certainty”, that is farmers and land owners will fully understand the rules of the program they are agreeing to.

They will also receive public recognition for implementing environmentally (and farming) beneficial practices. They will be held up to public acclaim as stewards of the environment. Finally, in implementing these practices they will have priority access to technological farming practices and advice and receive financial assistance for doing it!

Although many positive Ag and water quality ideas and practices were evident, there were some issues avoided or glossed over. For example, many of the conservation initiatives are purely voluntary, many if not all appear temporary in nature, and despite the large scale nature of the problems all across Minnesota, these programs are minor and narrowly focused. State policies are rapidly turning formerly wet Minnesota into desert-like regions punctuated as a consequence by high cost farming, struggling towns and declining natural areas.

The ecological and environmental cost, notably those of the commons and interconnections of the web of life are less easily quantifiable –at least until the damage is widespread and often irreversible. In that case the costs become overwhelming and circular, often have limited remedies or are ignored or overlooked.

Another serious matter is the use of “cost / benefit” analysis in determining the usefulness of an environmental proposal. Even that standard is being watered down, proposals to reduce the ‘cost’ criteria to a weak and ambiguous “affected” criteria are in the legislature (see HF-616). It’s not a level playing field; the economic benefits are well established and legions of special interests supporting, i.e., a farmer will get ten more bushels per acre.

As this conference documents, merely trying to stop or remedy existing water and land issues is difficult; i.e., wetlands are being destroyed across Minnesota, even though supposedly regulated to protect

them. Despite regulating, seems like every place in Minnesota is being tilled –including dry southwest Minnesota!! The flooding, water quality, water retention, erosion, pollution, and habitat situations that buffers help remedy may also be a looming example.

Funding is a serious buffer and other farmland environmental issue. Farmer's state it's their property and if the state wants to implement an Ag conservation plan, farmers think they should be paid for doing it. In addition today, sadly, they often appear to be mining the land. This 'property' position is frequently experienced; it was clearly evident at this conference. Let me state that historically farmers (including my relatives) husbanded the land, realizing that being good stewards of the land also implied good crops on a sustainable basis and other benefits derived from the land.

On the other hand, today's farmers seldom acknowledge they are stewards nor that they are exempt from most laws and regulations that other corporations must adhere to, pollution is an obvious case in point. Nor do many seem to recall that these farmsteads were given to the early settler farmers by the government and who were accorded many other benefits. Recent lawsuits in Minnesota and Iowa testing these matters may suggest courts may soon decide a number of these important aspects.

Finally, Legacy funds have been used in many instances, especially as program startup money (which may not be an appropriate use of the money governed by Statute since it is a typical state funding obligation). Continued State funding is questionable. The legislature appears reluctant to fund existing environmentally necessary programs. Where has been and is, State money to implement and maintain these programs on a startup basis or the large scale if Minnesota water quality and conservation objectives are to be achieved? Minnesota's economy depends on it happening.



Chris Bollin, Laverne Dunsmore, and visitor Susanne Engstrom.

The (our!) Friends trying to protect the BWCA from mining were present. Thank you!!



## Don Arnosti, Conservation Chair for the Minnesota Division



### Our Priority Work Together

- **Global Warming and Energy**

- Implement our goal of 100% renewable electricity at the Club and personal level
- Work to reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Support the Clean Energy & Jobs coalition effort to increase the renewable energy standard to 40% by 3030, and 2% conservation/year



### Our Priority Work Together

- Lead Wetland Conservation Act coalition to assure mining companies repair watersheds where they mine
- Support Governor's Buffer Initiative
- Support DNR's groundwater EAW for RD Offutt Company

### Water and Wetlands

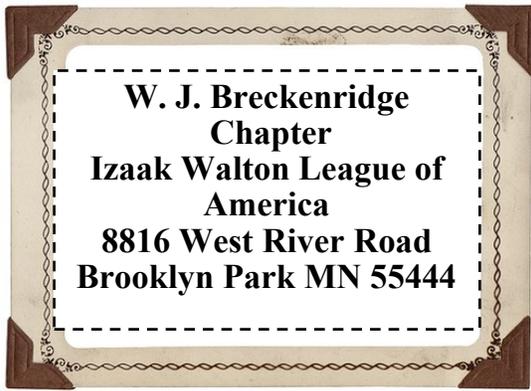


### Our Priority Work Together

#### **Mining – Sulfide and Silica**

- Lead coalition to assure wetland mitigation by mining industry is effective and fair
- Oppose polluting sulfide ore mine proposals
- Protect fragile SE MN resources from silica sand mining





If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to  
Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: [EditorBreckIWL@msn.com](mailto: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.”

If you can provide light refreshments for one of our Tuesday meetings, please contact  
Barbara Franklin  
763-657-1907  
Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

March 24 Tim Johnson  
April 28 Linda Eriksson  
May 26 \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you 

