



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League December 2016

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



### **Coming Events**

#### **December**



13 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00  
No social/educational meeting this month.

#### **January**

10 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00  
22 Winter Party details inside

#### **February**

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

#### **March**

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

The Breckenridge Chapter sends their sympathy to member, Keith Huso and his family on the death of his wife, Cheryl on Nov. 3, 2016. Funeral services have been held.

### **Winter Party speaker Frank Taylor**

Frank Taylor, graphic artist, falconer, and hawk bander. In addition to being a falconer, Frank has been banding hawks for 46 years, has worked diligently to improve the banding process and has a wealth of knowledge about hawks. He hopes to bring a special guest. He is a delightful and enthusiastic speaker and will share a wealth of information on hawks, hawk identification, and the need for fostering the joy of nature, especially to children.



**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League**

November 8, 2016  
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.

November 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> Social/Education Meeting  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting

**Attendees:** Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Joe Klohs, Tim Johnson, Karen Ostenso, Barbara Franklin, Dennis Leslie

**Events/Issues.....Dick/Larry/Jim**

Social/Education Meeting Speakers  
November – Trevor Russel, Friends of the Mississippi River  
December - Holiday Break  
January - To Be Determined

As a follow-up from our last Social/Ed meeting, John Moriarty sent us a copy of the Member Pledge form on the use of non-toxic ammunition and fishing tackle that he had created. After Board discussion, it was requested that Dick follow up with John to get additional information. **Discussion held over for December meeting.**

Resolution - Minnesota Threatened and Endangered Species Act - **Discussion held over for December meeting.**

Holiday Party date, January first choice for a date is Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> second choice 15<sup>th</sup>.

Possible entertainment

Frank Taylor, Raptor Specialist. Caterer is first choice. Jim and Judy Arnold will again oversee the Silent

Auction.

**Chapter House & Ground .....**Joe/Jim/Steve

Updating on the lights, the pricing is still good. Joe will be getting estimates for trenching the electrical wire out to the boulevard. – 1<sup>st</sup> Estimates \$4,052, we are considering renting a trencher for \$260 for a full day and doing the work ourselves. Jim, Dennis, and Joe will be meeting this week to discuss our options. Nord family gazebo donation, do we want to accept it? A motion was made to accept the donation, motion passed. It was decided that it would be placed on the backside of the building.

Holiday Decorating Chapter house, date November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Part of the river bank was washed away with the last big rain creating a whole underneath the walkway that needs to be looked at.

**Newsletter .....** Marlys

If you have any articles for the Timberlines please send them to  
[EditorBreckIWL@msn.com](mailto:EditorBreckIWL@msn.com)

**Treasurer's Report ..** John

The financial summary was distributed to the Board for review and discussion.

**Scholarships .....** Jim

The financial report was distributed to the Board for review and discussion of possibly adding a 5<sup>th</sup> scholarship recipient in 2017. A motion was made to pass on the Boards concerns to Tom Breckenridge, and then will hold a meeting with a subset of Board members.





## THOMPSON'S TAKE

### 11-10-16



Some of you may remember a time when a piece of material, called film, often on a roll, was used to capture images with a device called a camera (wink). Such devices have long been replaced by another device called ...a phone. Curious that a phone used to be attached to a wall or sat on a shelf while the camera was a portable device one carried from one activity to another. These days there has been a role reversal. The camera sits on a shelf (gathering dust) while the phone has become the portable device. Not mine, however. No, my snazzy, does everything except dishes, phone, sits on the same shelf my rotary phone used to occupy. I used to drive great distances from that old rotary and I got along just fine. Still do. My emergencies have not increased since the invention of the portable phone. 'Course, I don't have kids at home! Besides, I am a lousy photographer. But I digress.

The retina of ones eye behaves somewhat like a piece of film. Only instead of taking the captured image to the local Walgreen's, the optic nerve takes it to the brain. There it is processed into what is called a vision. Unlike a photo, vision is only good for the moment. Memories are facsimiles of vision. Unlike photographs, memories are not always as accurate as the hard copy ... the photograph. Never did understand how a piece of paper got to be known as "hard."

Anyway, the retina is made of several cell types. Those that are responsible for low light images and detail are called "rods" as a result of there being relatively rod shaped. Those that function best in bright light are called cones. Yeah, it's a shape thing, again. Cones are responsible for color vision. Not all cones are created equal, however. Humans have three different cone types. One type is responsible for seeing the color blue, another the color red, and a third sees green. Its up to the brain to blend these three colors into the rest of the rainbow. As I said, cones require bright light to function. That's why "all cats are gray in the dark!" So is everything else!

Bird retinas have a fourth cone type. It is responsible for seeing ultraviolet. Because of that fourth option we cannot begin to appreciate what the world looks like to a bird. For example, people often comment that certain bird species look the same when it comes to male and female. How do the birds tell each other apart. Well, aside from checking on which ones get the headaches, they see each other quite differently. Back a number of years ago, a researcher playing with an ultraviolet light discovered that some blue jays (in ultraviolet light) have larger white patches in their wings. Further study showed those were the males. Blue jays, therefore, have no trouble sorting out the girls and boys. Just use that fourth cone and look for the size of the wing color patches.

Mouse urine glows when subject to ultraviolet light. Field mice are kind of messy. They urinate all up and down their trails in the grass. Mouse hunting hawks have only to find, sit, and watch one of these glowing trails and wait for breakfast to come peeing down the path. Makes me wonder what Google Maps would come up with for a hawk. Would the earth look like a giant maze of pee trails?

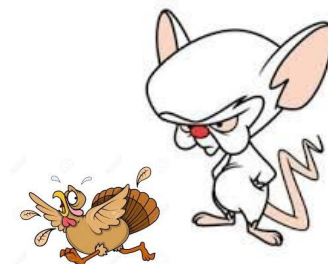
I have read or heard a comment by a woman who has said that "to a man, the whole world is a urinal!" Turns out it is also true for mice. And well, duh, so it is for all things wild.

We live on an old worn out farm. I wonder if people pee glows in ultraviolet light. If so, I wonder what the local red tailed hawk thinks when it flies over our farm, especially close to the back door!

Must be a big mouse lives there!

Well, alright, then ... NFT

By permission of the Owatonna Ikes and Nels Thompson, author



*JWLA Breckenridge Chapter*



*Sunday, January 22, 2017*

*\$12 suggested donation*

*Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund*

*4 p.m. – Social Hour*

*Silent Auction (please bring auction items by 4 p.m.)*

*Hors d'oeuvres*

*Tom Ward plays hammered dulcimer*

*5 p.m. – Dinner*

*This year the dinner will be catered by*

*Brooklyn Park HyVee*

*Bring desserts to share!*

*6 p.m. – Program*

*Raptor Specialist Frank Taylor*

*Possibly a special guest*

*Please RSVP to Patrice Lindgren by Friday, January 13*

*612-298-6152 or [pl201341@yahoo.com](mailto:pl201341@yahoo.com)*

*Everyone Welcome!*





**What has happened at the Chapter House in November?**  
November 29, 14 people assembled and decorated for all the Christmas rentals. Pictured are Wes Hendrickson, Linda Erickson, Barb Franklin, Lori Johnson, Karen Ostenso.



## Get Ready For the Silent Auction

The silent auction has become an important fundraiser for our Chapter's scholarship fund. In each of the last five years we have raised seven hundred dollars or more. At this year's holiday party, January 22nd, we will again have many unique items donated by our members as well as a number of services and gift certificates donated by local merchants. Be sure to arrive early to get a good look at all the items. Bidding will start at 4:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm.

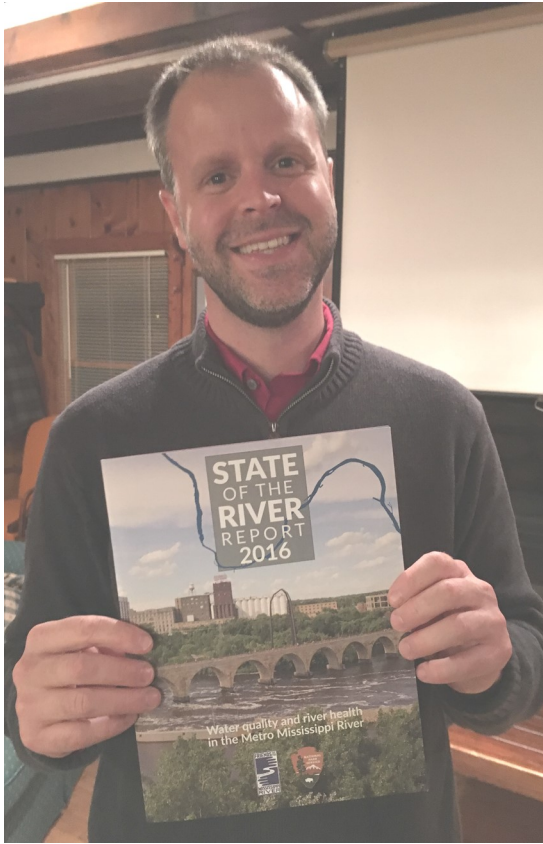
If you would like to donate an item, or if you know of a nearby business that would be willing to make a donation, contact Jim or Judy Arnold (763 560 8972 or [jjarnold@q.com](mailto:jjarnold@q.com)) or bring the item to the Chapter House by 4:00 pm on January 22nd.





## State of our River

*This article was reported by Tim Johnson concerning Trevor Russell's presentation at our Chapter House in November and contains excerpts from FMR's State of the River Report.*



FMR Water Program Director Trevor Russell presented an overview of the newly updated State of the River Report about the metro Mississippi River. From eagles to swimmable water to the newly recognized threat of plastic microfibers, he spoke about the most important trends and emerging issues in river health as well as potential solutions. Following are some of the topics discussed.

**Bald eagle** numbers continue to grow and of the 1,300 estimated to be found in Minnesota, 55 pairs are nesting along the metro river. This is approaching what wildlife biologists estimate is saturation level of nesting pairs, somewhere in the mid sixties. Since eagles are at the top of the food chain where toxins from our river are concentrated, blood samples are taken from nestlings each year (including those on our Banfill Island) to check for levels of lead, PFC's and PBDE's (used in flame retardants). The results show improvement in the upper river but downstream of the Metro Waste Water Treatment Plant, levels of PFC's and PBDE's are double what they are in our stretch of the river. Trevor joked that the good news is that

the eagles are less likely to catch on fire but the bad news is that we still have a way to go to get these dangerous chemicals out of our environment. Since Minnesota passed a law in 2015 to ban some forms of PBDE's we should see improvement in the future.

There are 18 native mussel species upstream of St. Anthony Falls. Upstream of the Coon Rapids Dam, seven of nine historical native species are present. Mussel habitat downstream of the confluence with the Minnesota River is still degraded. However, some mussel species have returned and this lower reach of the river now supports 28 of the original 43 native mussel species. Zebra mussels have not been reported in our section of the Mississippi yet but remain a threat since nearby water bodies are infested. Zebra mussels can wreak havoc with native species.

Historically, our river has been home to abundant **fish**. Scientists estimate there were nearly 120 native fish species below St. Anthony Falls and approximately 60 species above the falls, which served as a natural migration barrier. Fish populations dramatically declined following European settlement, when the river was used as an open sewer. **In 1926, fish survey data showed only two living fish in the river between St. Anthony Falls and Hastings.** Construction of the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1938, regulation of urban and industrial pollution, and passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, along with other factors, have resulted in improved fish populations in the river.

A trophy walleye fishery between the Ford Dam and the Hastings Dam is one of the highest quality urban fisheries in the United States. The smallmouth bass fishery upstream of the Coon Rapids Dam is considered world-class. It is estimated that more than 129 species of fish (120 native, 9 introduced) currently live in the river up to St. Anthony Falls. An estimated 86 species are now found above the falls. Safe-Eating Guidelines still need to be followed for some species due to mercury and PFC levels. A state-approved mercury reduction plan calls for a 76% reduction in mercury emissions from Minnesota sources by 2025. However, because roughly 90% of atmospheric mercury deposition in Minnesota comes from out of state, significant reductions in U.S. and global emissions will be required to meet these goals.

.While the river meets standards for **chloride**, many of the surrounding water bodies and tributaries have toxic levels due mainly to road salt, but water softening is also a significant factor. The sheer volume of the Mississippi river dilutes the salt to safe levels but not so in the lakes and ponds in the area, many of which are permanently degraded.

Several indicators are cause for concern. The river is impaired by excess **sediment, bacteria and phosphorus**, degrading aquatic habitat and recreation. It is recommended that swimming or other recreational contact be limited in impaired sections of the river and that it be avoided everywhere in the river within 48 hours of a rainstorm (including storms upstream), as this is when runoff flushes many pollutants into the river. Many portions of the river from its confluence with the Crow River (in Dayton) downstream through St. Paul have average bacteria concentrations that are too high. Recreational users are advised to be especially cautious downstream of storm drain outlets and other places where runoff enters the river. Always rinse off well after swimming.

Other indicators are also cause for alarm. **River flows** have multiplied to worrisome levels due to agricultural practices, destabilizing the river system and delivering large amounts of pollution. **Nitrate** concentration has increased substantially (by 44% from 1976-2014) which causes among other things, the Gulf of Mexico dead zone surrounding the Mississippi delta.

**Invasive Asian carp** continue to move upstream, with potentially devastating consequences to aquatic life and recreation below St. Anthony Falls.

**Microfibers**, rather than microbeads in soaps, are the primary source of micro plastic pollution in the metro river. They come from synthetic fabrics (e.g., microfleece, polyester, nylon) and are shed during machine washing, as well as transported through atmospheric deposition.- Some are so small they can pass through the human placenta from mother to baby. Consumers are urged to purchase clothing made of natural fibers.

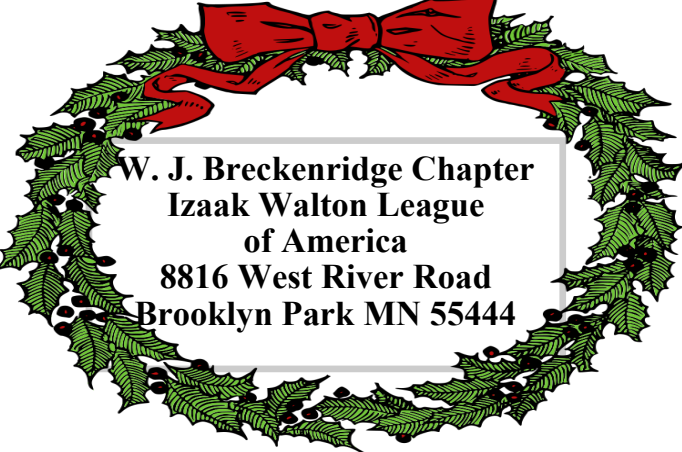
**Pharmaceuticals** are also threats to the river's life forms. Some drugs, such as anti-depressants and beta-blockers, reduce fertility or affect spawning in some aquatic organisms. Others may act as endocrine active compounds. EACs mimic or alter hormone systems and can interfere with reproductive, developmental and other biological functions and can lead to reproductive mutations in aquatic organisms. A recent study found 73% of male smallmouth bass at a site in Lake Pepin showed signs of sex mutation.

**Triclosan**-derived dioxins in the metro river pose uncertain risks to aquatic life and health. Since the 1960s, triclosan-derived dioxins have increased by 200-300% in Lake Pepin sediment. Minnesota has adopted legislation prohibiting the sale of triclosan-based consumer soaps and cleaning products, effective in 2017.

While the challenges we face are complex and daunting, the river today is healthier thanks to the actions of previous generations. The return of abundant wildlife to a once-troubled river is evidence that restoring the Mississippi is possible through shared commitment and decisive public action. FMR remains hopeful that with strong leadership and vocal support from river lovers across our state and nation, we, too, can pass a cleaner, healthier and more vibrant Mississippi River on to future generations.

To learn more about what you can do in your home, yard and community to help protect the river, consult the *State of the River Report [Stewardship Guide](#)*. You can also learn more about priority actions that federal, state and local leaders can take for the river in Friends of the Mississippi River's *State of the River Report [Policy Guide](#)*. Parents and educators can help pass the lessons of this report on to the next generation of river stewards through the *State of the River Report [Teacher's Guide](#)*. Find out more at [State of the River Report](#).

Photo by Diane Sannes



If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **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 our Tuesday meetings, please contact Barbara Franklin 763-657-1907 Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

December 27 - No meeting  
January - Holiday Party  
February 28 -

