



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
January 2019

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2019

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 20 Winter Party – Melonie Shipman
“It’s a Sled Dog’s Life”

FEBRUARY 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Jay Gustafson - Minnesota State Water Trails

MARCH 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
John Moriarty - *The Field Guide to the
Natural World of the Twin Cities*



Holiday Party

The Annual Holiday Party for Breckenridge Chapter members and friends will take place on Sunday, January 20 at 4 pm at the Chapter House. A silent auction will start at 4, followed by dinner at 5 catered by Carol Knutson of Spectacular Catering but you’re welcome to bring desserts to share. Our usual auction handlers, Jim and Judy Arnold, will not be in charge, due to Jim’s recuperation from serious illness, but if you would like to help or contribute items, please contact Lori Johnson at 612-720-8337.

We do have an excellent program planned with Melonie Shipman speaking on “It’s a Sled Dog’s Life.” You’ll have an insider’s perspective on what it means for these master athletes and their mushers to race for the finish dodging blizzards, moose, and exhaustion along the way. Melonie is a traveling naturalist and former co-Executive Director, Audubon Center of the North Woods. An Educator/Manager with broad range and depth of experience in a wide variety of audiences, formats and settings, she is dedicated to expanding the reach of nature-based programs to audiences at their locations.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes December 11, 2018

A quorum of board members was not present: Steve, Tim, Barb, Larry, and Dick attended.

Meeting was called to order with recitation of the Ike's member pledge: *To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and 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.*

Issues:

Dick updated the Board members on the issue of Champlin's Oxbow Park's north arm and the potential for planting a pollinator friendly prairie on it. The Champlin Garden Club has offered to contribute funds to plant the north arm of the park with pollinator friendly species but not to contest the street project being proposed north of it. As previously, Dick suggested our Board consider chipping in with a donation offer as well and members present were inclined to do so at a later meeting after the Champlin City Council members respond to the idea.

A resolution on sustainable human population worked on by members Dell Erickson and Dick Brown was passed around. Those present made comments on some wording and suggested that in light of there not being a quorum present, the resolution be resubmitted at the next board meeting reflecting the initial feedback given.

Larry had made a suggestion to invite our nearby newly elected freshman legislators to meet with us at our Chapter House before the 2019 session starts. Dick will set up a meeting with 36A's Rep Zach Stevenson and Tim will set one up with 40B's Rep Samantha (Sam) Vang. The plan would be to keep the group small and make sure constituents were well represented. The topics would be conservation issues only.

Details of our January 20th holiday party were reviewed and plans for setting up were finalized.

Presentation of Melonie Shipman's It's a Sled Dog's Life was confirmed by Larry.

Building and Grounds:

Tim reported that:

- Brad Larson will arrange for Hipsag Electric who installed the current wiring in our kitchen to set the refrigerator on its own circuit.
- Our AV equipment (large flat screen TV and Blu-Ray DVD player) is now set up on a portable stand. Tim donated an antenna but good HD reception over the air can only be had in a few spots.

Treasurer:

Our treasurer was not present but Tim reported our balance sheet looks good with recent and upcoming rentals.



Rep.-elect Samantha Vang, pictured here in the center foreground, met with the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America Dec. 26 at 8816 W. River Road, Brooklyn Park, to discuss issues that may arise in the upcoming legislative session. Vang will serve as chair of the new Minnesota Asian Pacific Caucus. Also pictured are Wes Hendrickson, Allan Hancock, Darnell Hancock, Darryl Sannes, Steve Schaust, Tim Johnson and Dick Brown.

Meetings with newly elected representatives

Newly elected State Representatives from nearby districts, Zach Stephenson (36A) and Samantha Vang (40B) pictured, met with Breckenridge Chapter Ikes at our chapter house this month to exchange views on conservation issues that they may face during the next session. Issues mentioned by Ikes included:

- School Trust lands (STL) compensation: Ikes support setting up a "surplus sweep" bill to fund compensation for ecological management, new old growth designation, etc. The DNR would like to preserve old growth but doesn't have money to compensate STL for preservation.
- Supporting separation of duties of promoting and regulating mining within the DNR.
- Supporting Renewable Energy to 100% level and funding for outstate Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations (we know there will be plenty of stations in the metro area)
- Funding \$10 million of grants to the U of M Forever Green Initiative to increase the efficiency, profitability and productivity of farmers by incorporating perennial and winter-annual crops into existing agricultural practices
- Support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) which targets high-priority conservation concerns identified by the State. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing permanent resource conserving plant species, farmers and

ranchers are paid an annual rental rate along with other federal and state incentives. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10–15 years.

- Pollinators and roadside habitat – We support requiring a license to apply neonicotinoid pesticides

and making non-neonic soybean seeds available. We also support Rep Rick Hansen’s “Lawns to Legumes” legislation, a cost share program for homeowners. This would be the first program specifically targeting assistance to homeowners who want to convert lawns to pollinator friendly habitat.

Mr. Stephenson emphasized his commitment to fighting human-caused climate change and his special interest in cleaning up the Crow River that drains a large agricultural area before joining the Mississippi River just north of his district, parts of which are on both sides of the river.

Ms. Vang mentioned that she, the second youngest legislator this term, has been paired with Rep Hansen in the mentor program for incoming freshmen legislators. We know she will receive good advice from such a conservation minded and experienced legislator.

Reported by Tim Johnson

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter
Holiday Party
Sunday, January 20, 2019
\$15 suggested donation
Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund

4 p.m. – Social Hour
Silent Auction
Hors d'oeuvres

5 p.m. – Dinner
This year the dinner will be catered by
Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering
Bring desserts to share!

6 p.m. – Program
Melonie Shipman
It's a Sled Dog's Life

Please RSVP to
Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)
or
763-657-1907

Everyone Welcome!

On 40th Anniversary, Challenges Remain for BWCAW

By Kevin Proescholdt

Forty years ago this past fall, on October 21, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BW-CAW) Act. His action ended a long and bitter political struggle for the future of the BWCAW, and finally set this storied Wilderness on the path to true wilderness protection.

The BWCAW is the nation's largest lakeland Wilderness, with over 1,000 lakes carved by the glaciers from the rocky Canadian Shield. Visitors travel primarily by canoe. The largest Wilderness east of the Rockies and north of the Everglades, the BWCAW also contains the largest block of natural, unlogged forest east of the Rockies. For decades it has been the most popular and heavily-visited Wilderness in the entire National Wilderness Preservation System.

The 1964 Wilderness Act included the BWCA as an original unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, but special language (Sec. 4[d][5]) singled out just the canoe country wilderness to allow continued logging and motorboat use there. So the Boundary Waters was a Wilderness in name, but not in management. This paradox led to a series of court cases in the late 1960s through the mid-1970s over mining, logging, and motorized travel. Was the BWCA a Wilderness or not?

The BWCAW of the 1960s and early 1970s was a heavily compromised remnant of the vast canoe country that once stretched across northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario. Early wilderness advocate Ernest C. Oberholtzer, for example, hoped in the 1920s to protect an international wilderness here of some six million

acres. So the small and heavily compromised wilderness of the Boundary Waters prior to 1978 was but a fraction of that once more vast canoe country.

In 1975, newly-elected Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) of northeastern Minnesota (whose district included the BW-CAW) introduced a bill in Congress to try to resolve all the uncertainty. But his bill would have taken another huge bite out of the area, removed 400,000 acres from the million-acre Wilderness, and used that instead to create a National Recreation Area where logging, motorboats and snowmobiles, resort development, etc., would be allowed.

Wilderness advocates

formed the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in May 1976 to fight for the protection of the BWCA as a Wilderness. Led by retired Forest Service ecologist Miron "Bud" Heinselman, Chuck Dayton, Erika Sitz, Darby Nelson, Dan Engstrom, Jan Green, Dick Flint, Herb Johnson, and many others, they turned to Rep. Don Fraser (D-MN) of Minneapolis. Fraser introduced a wilderness bill for the BWCA in June 1976 to protect the area from logging, mining, motorized travel, and development.

Hearings were held in Minnesota and Washington, D.C., in 1977. A compromise bill emerged from the House Interior Committee in 1978, authored by subcommittee chair Rep. Phil Burton (D-CA) and Bruce Vento (D-MN). It passed the House in June with additional compromises on motor-boat use. A Senate-sponsored negotiating session resulted in a compromise allowing even more motor use, and garnered the support of Sen. Wendell Anderson (D-MN). The revised The 1964 Wilderness Act



Bud and Fran Heinselman (center) celebrating passage of the 1978 law with Rep. Bruce Vento (left) and Rep. Phil Burton (right). By Kevin Proescholdt

included the BWCA as an original unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, but special language (Sec. 4[d][5]) singled out just the canoe country wilderness to allow continued logging and motorboat use there. So the Boundary Waters was a Wilderness in name, but not in management. This paradox led to a series of court cases in the late 1960s through the mid-1970s over mining, logging, and motorized travel. Was the BWCA a Wilderness or not?

The new law moved the canoe country strongly in the direction of wilderness protection. It ended logging, greatly restricted mining within the Wilderness and within a new Mining Protection Area in some places outside the BW-CAW, closed all but two short snowmobile routes, removed motorboat use from about 41 percent of the water surface area, added about 67,000 acres to the BWCAW in key additions, and officially renamed the area from BWCA to BWCAW to underscore Congress's affirmation of Wilderness.

The new law also amended the 1964 Wilderness Act and removed that special language dealing with the BWCAW. This is the only time in more than half a century that the landmark Wilderness Act has been amended.

The 1978 BWCAW Act is also perhaps the only example where Congress has returned to a designated Wilderness and removed special provisions that previously weakened its protection. Doing so required a bitter political fight that divided Minnesota and affected all statewide political races in 1978, underscoring both the problems that special provisions in wilderness bills pose as well as the tiny likelihood that Congress will come back to Wildernesses at a later date and remove special provisions that weaken their protection.

Some might think that now, 40 years down the road, the BWCAW must be fully protected for all time.

Unfortunately that is not the case. Here are some of the challenges ahead if we are to truly realize a fully-protected wilderness future for the BWCAW:

- **New Sulfide Mining.** The Mining Protection Area created by the 1978 law does not protect the BWCAW from proposed new copper-nickel sulfide mining, with its threat of acid mine drainage into

the Wilderness. The proposed Twin Metals mine would clearly threaten the BWCAW, and at least one study shows that the proposed PolyMet mine could also spill pollution into the watershed of the BWCAW.

- **Towboats and Commercial Services.**

Commercial motorized towboats operate in several locations ferrying canoe parties to points further into the Wilderness, disrupting the experience of other visitors and depriving even their customers of a true wilderness experience. Yet the Wilderness Act generally prohibits commercial services in Wilderness unless they are necessary and proper for visitors to experience Wilderness. The Forest Service has begun a commercial needs assessment to help determine whether these commercial motorboat services will continue.

- **Truck Portages.** The 1978 law directed that the so-called "truck portage" operations end inside the Wilderness. These are commercial services that haul motorboats from one lake to another. But Rep. Oberstar engineered an amendment to a national transportation funding bill in 1998 to re-open two of these operations.

- **Motorboats.** Motorboats still roar across about one-fifth of the water surface area of the canoe country wilderness. Their presence diminishes the area's wilderness character. Imagine if we could someday experience a completely motor-free BWCAW!

- **Snowmobiles.** Snowmobiles are still allowed inside the BWCAW on two access trails to Canada. In recent years the Forest Service expanded the area open to snowmobiles on the U.S. portion of Saganaga Lake. Snowmobiles and their noise also degrade the area's wilderness character.

- **Wilderness Management/Manipulation.** This subject is an ongoing challenge. The Forest Service, for example, wants to intentionally ignite fires in the BWCAW along the Echo Trail in the Hi Lo Project. While allowing natural fire to play its role in the BWCAW is good, pre-scribed fire like that proposed has far different ecological effects and is the type of manipulation that the Wilderness Act seeks to prevent.

- **School Trust Lands.** About 83,000 acres of state school trust lands lie within the BWCAW, which don't generate income for the state's Permanent School Fund. Congress has just begun directing funds to the Forest Service to purchase these lands from the state. This option is preferable to a straight

land exchange, where Minnesota would gain title to current National Forest lands outside the Wilderness. The land exchange option would benefit the proposed copper-nickel mining proposals.

• **Heavy Visitation.** The BWCAW remains the most visited Wilderness in the entire National Wilderness Preservation System. While the heavy visitation numbers help insure that there are many who love and defend the area, the crowds also make it hard to find solitude and experience a truly wild Wilderness. Quetico Provincial Park (adjacent to the BWCAW along the Canadian border and slightly larger) sees only about one-fifth the number of visitors

as the BWCAW and its wild character is much better protected.

So let's celebrate this 40th milestone of the landmark BW-CAW law, but let's also remember that lots of unfinished business remains if we are to truly protect this incredible area as the world-class wild wilderness it deserves to be.

Kevin Proescholdt of Minneapolis is the conservation director for Wilderness Watch. He helped pass the 1978 law, directed the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness for 17 years, and was the lead author of the book, Troubled Waters: The Fight for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

*To: Those interested in preserving the entire north arm of Oxbow Park in Champlin.
For information contact Dick Brown at Browns1949@comcast.net or 763 421 6781*

Protecting Oxbow Creek Park

In the south east corner of Champlin lies a nature park untouched by development, so far. Early Champlin City councils realized setting aside parcels with natural features would benefit nature's creatures, our observance of them and be good for the human spirit as well.

In Oxbow Park, the creek that was an intermittent stream has been eliminated and runs no more. Several years ago the City of Champlin blocked the culvert under 109th Avenue that fed the Oxbow Pond. The pond's outlet ran under the West River Road and into the Mississippi River. The creek now runs south and east within Brooklyn Park. However, Oxbow Pond still remains in a diminished state, but still attracts various forms of wildlife.

Oxbow Park is part prairie and part woodlands. In the 1990s the Izaak Walton League installed 12 bluebird houses in the prairie part. In 2016 an environmentally minded neighbor of the park rebuilt the old houses and so the Bluebird Trail is still there. Bluebirds, tree swallows and wrens use the houses.

There are rumors that developers are interested in purchasing the northern arm of the park that meets the West River Road. Many of us believe that the area should be retained as part of the Oxbow Park. Currently this part of the park is a 3-5 acre meadow bordered by private woodland on one side and residence on the other. It supports some species of wildlife.

A more important use of this part of the park would be to convert it into native flowering prairie for benefit of our diminishing pollinators and bird life.

Champlin is developing well enough without losing our irreplaceable natural parklands. Several of us call on Champlin City Council to protect what is left of our diminishing natural heritage, including all of Oxbow Park.

Dick Brown

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
8816 West River Road
Brooklyn Park MN 55444**



**If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to
Barbara Franklin at: bbfrankli@gmail.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. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.

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)

**If you can provide light
refreshments for our
Tuesday meetings, please contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com**

Feb 26 -

Mar 26 -

