



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
August 2023

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

August 2023

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Jeffrey Lunde, District 1 Commissioner & Ben Knudsen -Hennepin County's Zero Waste Team

September 2023

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Dr. Scott Sharkey - Tales of a Minnesota Marsh

October 2023

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday August 22, 7:30 PM

Jeffrey Lunde, District 1

Commissioner, Hennepin County



Hennepin County 1st District Commissioner Jeffrey Lunde will present important environmental plans, including Zero Waste, Anerobic Digester, HERC, transit and others. The Commissioner will be accompanied by Ben Knudson who has been with the County's Zero Waste Team for many years. Feedback and advice on these plans from our organization would be appreciated by our Commissioner, so come and share your ideas to improve Hennepin County.

Tobin Award

Barbara Franklin receives the Tobin Award in recognition of her volunteer work.



Board of Directors Meeting

Highlights: July 11, 2023

- **Internet** - The Chapter House will be getting Wi-Fi access to the internet
- **No Lead Law** - Steve will be meeting this week: to help put together a bill for 2024 for No Lead law.
- **Constitution and By-laws:** All have been updated – process is complete, signed and in the file cabinet.

Got Firewood!

Ike volunteers split about two years' worth of firewood on a hot afternoon"



Opinion: Turtles: Threatened or Endangered Species

Wed, May 31, 2023: *The Minneapolis Star Tribune* reports:
“After 20-year effort, State Bans Turtle Trapping.”

Fifteen or 20 years ago as our Environmental Conservation Issues Chair (for both our Chapter and MN DIV) I attended a meeting in St. Cloud where a Resolution Dispute Law Judge presided. The open meeting was about reducing or eliminating turtle trapping by commercial outfits. The reason was that most Turtle species, especially the Snapper, were considered threatened or endangered at that time. I testified there should be an end to all Turtle trapping and catching and reasons why.

Twenty years later they banned trapping but only commercial trapping. However, people with recreational fishing licenses are allowed to keep up to three turtles. Since 2014, about 10,000 Turtles have been trapped each year, (and before that a lot more were trapped).

Bob Meier, Asst. DNR Commissioner, says, “The Turtle population is in grave danger, and we need to do whatever we can to protect them”. What I can’t figure out is what has been the holdup with lawmakers for the last 20 years?

A State Rep. from Browns’ Valley argues that roadkill by cars, predators and DNR fishing nets kill more Turtles than commercial harvesters. All these problems are significant but hardly within our means to control. We must do what we can and figure out what to do for the rest.

If lawmakers and the DNR are serious about Turtle recovery they should make it illegal for anyone, fishing licenses or not, to catch, kill or keep Turtles. They need to show a serious intent.

Dick Brown

Dragons and Damsels Flying Over Minnesota



July's speaker at our Chapter House, John Arthur, shared his passion for odonata and his amazing photography of them with our audience. Odonata means "toothed ones" and in Minnesota there are two suborders, anisoptera and zygoptera, meaning "asymmetrical and symmetrical wings". Dragonflies' forewings are differently shaped than hindwings while damselflies' fore and hind wings are the same shape. Every species of odonata has spots on the front of their wings called stigma which he speculated may add some weight, enhancing their wing control.

We were informed by John that dragonflies have been around for around 350 million years and pre-date dinosaurs. Some fossil dragonflies had as much as a 29-inch wingspan. John asked, "Can you think of the size mosquitos they must have been eating?"

Segment ten of their abdomens is where "everything is going on" in terms of identification and sex. Quite often section ten must be examined with a hand lens to identify the species. John used bluet damselflies as an

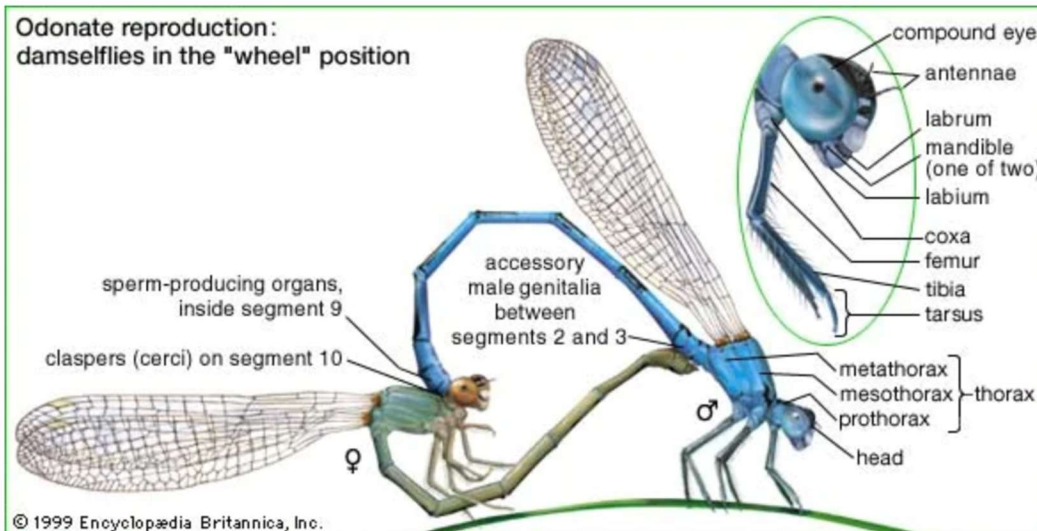
example where three species look the same without a hand lens. Each species tenth segment shape differs allowing it to only clasp their own species.

The male has claspers in segment ten with which it grasps the female. Having previously transferred his sperm packets up further on his body, the female grabs that section with her tenth segment. "You can tell it's love because if you look at them together sideways you can see they make a figure of a heart" he said.

Odonata spend most of their lives under water. Some spend up to 5 years underwater while others develop in just one year. Their nymphs shed their skins several times but we don't know how many times. After dragonflies emerge, they leave their exuviae behind and fly inland to land and harden up. The males first return to near a shoreline to establish a territory and then the females follow. Hunting is made easier with their compound eyes containing almost 30,000 individual eyes with which they can see about 30 colors, way more than people.

When identifying species of odonata the observer must keep in mind that the genders don't always look alike. Also, the color may look different under different light due to refraction. Colors also may change over a period of a week or so, as they mature. And to confuse us a little more, some damselflies spread their wings out at a 45 degree angle (called spread-wings) unlike most who hold them up directly over their body.

One of the smallest dragonflies in Minnesota is only 7/8 of an inch long while the lake darners average over 3 inches. Some prey on specific species while others are generalists. Chalk-fronted corporals love to eat deer flies so we should consider them good friends.



When asked about threats to odonata, John mentioned habitat loss as the main one but also said that "neonicotinoids may be the next DDT" for our insects. Thankfully there were some positive steps taken by our Legislature this past session in restricting their use but more needs to be done and we lkes need to push that with our legislators.

Reported by Tim Johnson

National Night Out

National Night Out brought in a number of former and new residents of the Riverview neighborhood to share potluck, root beer floats and conversation and a good time. Thanks to Larry Kennebeck for the photos shown here.



Many thanks to Laura Fuller, who organized and publicized the affair, and her husband and two boys, Israel and Hebron, among others who helped with setup and welcoming folks.



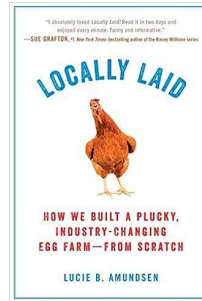


We received a visit from a Brooklyn Park Firefighter Todd who explained some of the services the fire department provides.

Book Review:

Locally Laid: How We Built a Plucky, Industry-Changing Egg Farm - from Scratch

by Lucie B. Amundsen



Lucie B. Amundsen wrote *Locally Laid* and published it in 2016. She and her husband, Jason, and their 2 young kids left big city life and established an egg-laying flock in the Duluth area. Neither of them had experience in farming although they kept 5 backyard chickens. Their goal was to raise hens that were cage-free and pastured outdoors.

They made rudimentary coops and had to carry water from a well to the coops in big containers with Jason working 12 hours a day, every day, doing heavy labor. When the hens began to lay, they had to wash the eggs by hand every day.

Many roadblocks occurred during the first 18 months or so, including very cold temperatures, chickens that had to be manually lifted onto their roosts, expensive food, and problems getting the chicks used to being outdoors.

Selling the eggs, required extensive marketing to compete with less expensive caged hens. Their first big customer was a restaurant in Duluth when when the workers there recognized the quality of the eggs.

Their flock of several thousand, was minor compared to industrial producers. At the same time, it was large compared to small backyard flocks. Eventually, they heard about “middle ag” and got educated about its difficulties.

The book is an easy read, as well as being educational and humorous. My next step is to look for their eggs, which are branded as LoLa, in local stores. I see online that they have now expanded to raising berries.

Karen Ostenso



Wendy and Jerry Steele provided the equipment for bubble making, which fascinated adults and kids alike.

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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

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 breckcal@yahoo.com)