



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
December 2022

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

December 2022

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 No Social/Educational meeting

January 2023

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Annual Holiday Party 4 pm, Dinner 5 pm,
Program: Don Luce: *A Natural Curiosity:
The Story of The Bell Museum*

February 2023

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 Greg Hoch, author of *With Wings Extended*
Wood Ducks 7:30 pm

Don Luce, Holiday Program Speaker

Don Luce, former Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum and co-author of *A Natural Curiosity: the Story of the Bell Museum* will share stories and history of the museum at our 2023 Holiday Party on January 22.



Board of Directors Meeting Highlights: November 8, 2022

Election of Board officers was held at the General Member meeting Oct 25, 2022. All four incumbent officers President Steve Schaut, Vice President Larry Kennebeck, Treasurer Sue Schmidt, Secretary Wendy Steele were re-elected for another term without opposition.

New chapter member Josh Wildt attended the Board meeting and was introduced by President Steve Schaut as a prospective candidate for the Board of Directors. Josh is a landscape architect. He expressed his interest in joining the Board and Board members voted unanimously to join as a director.

Welcome Josh!

Plans were made for the Winter Holiday Party to be held on January 22. The building will open at 4 pm, dinner at 5 pm, program at 6 pm. Tim volunteered to contact caterer Carol Knutson about menu and cost. Don Luce, co-author of *A Natural Curiosity: the story of the Bell Museum* will be the presenter. We still need a coordinator for the silent auction.

Losing our Chapter's Ancient Trees

By Tim Johnson

We recently paid to have four mature bur oaks cut down due to bur oak blister, a disease that usually isn't lethal, but when combined with drought, it can be. This new loss is on top of several other mature (over a century old) ash, elm and red oak which have died or been blown down in the last couple of years.

It's such a shame to see these big ancient trees go! But in this time of increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration linked to climate change, it is doubly sad to know that captured carbon stored in those trees is adding to our crisis. If the trees were just cut and allowed to lie on the forest floor as they decompose (as they do on Banfill Island) that carbon release would be gradual over decades. But when it is burned (turned into firewood) as is happening to our trees, the carbon will be immediately added to the atmosphere.

How much CO₂ are we talking about? Using US Forest Service analytic tools for northern red oak (let's assume roughly equivalent to bur oak) each would contain the CO₂ equivalency of 25 tons. Each tree would contain about what five average automobiles burning gasoline produce in a year.

So, should we have left the tree trunks standing or lying on the forest floor (enhancing wildlife habitat) instead of having them chopped up for fire wood? That would depend on whether the market would just substitute other oak trees for ours if we withheld them from the market. That also depends on whether the arborists would give us a discount on the removal (which they did) if they could have the wood because we could then direct the savings toward other methods of decreasing atmospheric CO₂ such as sequestration of carbon in newly planted trees.

Unfortunately, to offset the loss of these four mature oak trees (both the loss of stored carbon and its emission into the atmosphere by burning) in a time frame to make a difference, it would take thousands of newly planted trees over many acres growing for many years. Another method of offset



would be to invest in saving our mature ash trees threatened by disease.

This can be done by injecting them with a treatment to kill the emerald ash borers but it is too late to save most of them and the cost is higher than \$50/tree/year.

“The inescapable truth is that we need continuing help from our existing mature trees. There is a storage efficiency gained through their size. We need them for the carbon they are presently sequestering and for the amount they can continue adding if we keep them healthy. To be sure, planting is important, but keeping large trees standing and healthy takes on extra importance during this climate crisis.”

Robert Levrett

<https://www.treeib.com/carbon-storage-in-large-trees-by-robert-leverett>

Thanks to members who help keep our Chapter going:

- ❖ Dick's son, Steve, blew all our leaves, not stopping even when it started raining just before our first snowstorm of the year.
- ❖ David & Trudie Houman donated some nice door mats to help protect our Chapter House floors.
- ❖ John Rust donated a beautiful Christmas tree to the Chapter which we can all enjoy this season.
- ❖ And Jim and Judy Arnold, Tim and Lori Johnson, Josh Wildt and Karen Ostenso decorated the Chapter House.



Remembering Wes Hendrickson decorating the tree in a previous year with Linda Eriksson.



Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count will be held December 17th at 7:30 am at Springbrook Nature Center for anyone desiring to participate.

History of the Breckenridge Chapter, Part 2

This is the second half of an article scheduled to appear in *The Waltonian*, the official newsletter of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League. It was prepared by Tim Johnson. The first half appeared in the November *Timberlines*.



Figure 1 Dick Brown and John Rust, past Chapter Presidents speaking at a meeting.

The membership subsequently grew, attracting community leaders and politicians. Since this second lease on life, the Chapter's membership has included two State Governors (Arne Carlson and Jesse Ventura), two DNR Commissioners (Gene Merriam and currently Sarah Strommen), the current Speaker of the House (Melissa Hortman), local legislator (Darby Nelson), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency leader (Grant Merritt), DNR Non-Game Wildlife supervisor (Carroll Henderson), Wilderness Watch Conservation Director (Kevin Proescholdt), and Senior Manager of Wildlife with Three Rivers Parks (John Moriarty). Other leaders counted among our members include professors of the natural sciences (Walter Breckenridge, Lee Froelich and Peter Sorenson). Mentioning these prominent members by name does not in any way diminish the contributions of many other members, some who have served or are currently serving not only in Chapter leadership but also in Minnesota Division leadership roles.

By the 1990s, most of the Chapter's membership was drawn from its closer surrounding communities rather than North Minneapolis so a name change was discussed. After entertaining some other options, two members visiting the Douglas Lodge in Itasca State Park noted several paintings by Chapter member Dr. Walter Breckenridge hanging on the walls. That made them think of his other roles including decades as curator of the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota and one of the key creators of their renowned dioramas, author of natural history books and films including one on our own Banfill Island just across the channel from the Chapter House. With his years on our Board of Directors, it seemed a good fit so with his permission, members honored him by officially becoming part of the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA.



Figure 2 Our namesake Dr. Breckenridge at a Chapter event around age 100

And speaking of Banfill Island, this approximately twenty-acre mini-wilderness in the middle of our bustling cities, had been owned for a long time by the Rum River Boom Co. before being passed on, first to the Northern States Power Co. who managed the hydroelectric plant at the Coon Rapids Dam. Next it was passed to the University of Minnesota for research and finally was offered in the late 1990s (with some negotiation from Dr. Breckenridge) for sale to the Chapter for \$100 with the stipulation that it be kept in its natural state in perpetuity. Shortly thereafter, an attempt to officially rename the island Breck's Island (in recognition of the research he did there) was abandoned due to legal requirements. Breck identified over 200 bird species on the island over the years. A dozen wood duck houses have been placed to supplement the natural cavities in the island's forest. Currently there are bald eagle nests on both ends of the island. One of the eagles was observed a few years back with its talons embedded in the back of a beaver which had been working on girdling their giant cottonwood nest trees. The beaver did make it to the water where it was released by the eagle. Since the river serves as a natural wildlife corridor, the National Park Service has plans to monitor the island soon for pine martens (once extirpated in Minnesota) which are hopefully moving their range south.

As a historical note, Father Hennepin mentioned camping on this island in 1680 on his return down the Rum River after being kidnapped in Illinois by a Dakota war party. That made him the first European to mention the island.

Due to the Chapter's location on the river, it is natural that members take a keen interest in its water quality and the flood and drought cycles which affect wildlife diversity. The USGS maintains a river level gauge nearby whose readings are compared with the historical record at their website https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv?site_no=05288500

Written into the Articles of Incorporation as one of the explicit purposes of the Chapter was a campaign to eradicate invasive carp. Members were recently especially pleased when their (and other's) efforts to close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam to prevent upstream spread of new invasive carp species succeeded in 2015. This closure also stopped the upstream spread of invasive zebra mussels although it seems inevitable that the infestation will reach our stretch of the Mississippi soon from upstream where careless boaters, as far north as the river's headwaters, have inadvertently introduced them.

Recently, a prolific local angler and new member, Tyler Winter, brought his concerns about management of our native "rough fish" (many of which can be found in the water a few feet from the Chapter House steps) first to our Board of Directors through the resolution process, on to the Minnesota Division and then successfully to the National Convention where the resolution was passed this Centenary year. His perseverance led to a legal petition being submitted to the DNR by our Minnesota Division to amend some of their rules in order to better

protect these important species, some of which are targeted by bow-fishing and discarded wantonly. These fish render important ecosystem services, as prey to other animals, hosts to mussels, predators of invasive zebra mussels and competitors to common carp. The petition can be viewed on our Minnesota Division website at <https://sites.google.com/view/minnesotaiikes/news?authuser=0>



Figure 3 Member Tyler Winter caught this Bigmouth Buffalo near the Chapter House recently. This is one of the species lacking any protection.

Other priorities of the Breckenridge Chapter include a scholarship fund directed to the post-secondary education of promising local students with a strong interest in, and a commitment to, environmental causes. We are in our 24th year of this program and have awarded more than 100 scholarships. Applications can be found on the Chapters website <https://www.breckenridgeikes.org/scholarships>



Figure 4 IWLA scholarship recipients speaking to members. The painting on the wall behind them is by Dr Breckenridge.

We are also continuing with our monthly conservation-minded speaker presentations after interruption by the pandemic. Upcoming programs can always be found on the Chapter's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Walter-J-Breckenridge-Chapter-Izaak-Walton-League-of-America-129808113704527/> or on our website: www.breckenridgeikes.org

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter

Holiday Party

Sunday, January 22, 2023

\$25 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

Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering

Bring desserts to share!

6 p.m. – Program

Don Luce

A Natural Curiosity

The story of the Bell Museum

Please RSVP to

Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)

Call or text

763-242-0432

Everyone Welcome

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 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.

Did you know our Chapter originated the Ike's bust logo?



Actual size 3 1/2" diameter

Attention Waltonians!

You are now able, through the cooperation of the North Minneapolis Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, to obtain an attractive windshield emblem at small cost. Use it in your car—wherever you go carry this insignia of true sportsmanship and make yourself known to other Waltonians.

BOOST Your Izaak Walton League

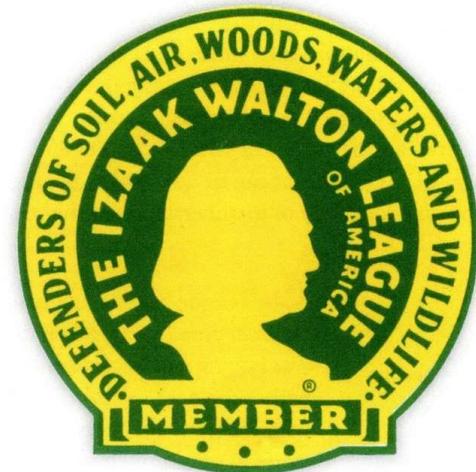
The North Minneapolis Chapter originated and designed this windshield emblem and is making it available to all Chapters of the League. It is a pure paint and spar varnish transfer sign richly colored in gold, black and green, of a quality designed to last for four or five years—the life of your car. Display it on your windshield or place it on your office door. This emblem offers a dignified and attractive way to advertise your affiliation with the Izaak Walton League of America.

Price: 10c Each—Immediate Delivery

Minimum billing of \$3.00 to each chapter. Kindly include 15c for postage.

Chapter officers are urged to ORDER NOW. Send remittance with order to:

North Minneapolis Chapter, IWLA—Minneapolis, Minnesota
G. M. LAING, Secretary 4347 Webber Parkway



This 1934 ad from *Outdoor America* shows a member decal, meant to be displayed on a car, designed by the North Minneapolis, Minnesota Chapter. For 10 cents each, members could proudly show their League affiliation. Today's yellow and green vinyl member decal (no more paint and varnish transfer as described in the ad about the original), almost 90 years later, still follows this design with just slight alterations to the slogan to include soil and air.