



TIMBERLINES



**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
February 2026**

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Coming Events

February 2026

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm **Hennepin County
Commissioner Jeff Lunde**

March 2026

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Bruce Anderson, DNR
**The Loss of Wildlands in the Lower 48 and
Minnesota Since European Settlement**

April 2026

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Head of MN Biological Survey

May 2026

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 17 Pancake Breakfast
- 26 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm



Social Educational

**Tuesday, February 24 7:30 pm
Hennepin County Commissioner
Jeff Lunde**

It's been about two years since the Commissioner's last visit to our Chapter House. He will update us on the numerous difficult issues the County is dealing with, including environmental ones, such as Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) as he represents the constituents of District 1. Jeff will take questions from the audience after his remarks. Stay afterward for refreshments and conversation!

(And volunteer to bring refreshments in the future!)



2026 Annual Holiday Party



Our annual holiday party was a social and financial success. Our new caterer, We Cater to You, provided us with an excellent menu; desserts were prolific and there were few leftovers. Attendance was 50+ and we brought in about \$2000 for the Scholarship Fund. The weather cooperated and the icy driveway seemed not to be a problem. Our speaker, Carrol Henderson presented stories from his new book, *A National Legacy: Fifty years of Nongame Wildlife Conservation in Minnesota*.



Trumpeter Swan Trilogy related by Carrol Henderson

Reported by Tim Johnson



Many who attended our annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction were very happy to have our copies of *A National Legacy: Fifty Years of Nongame Wildlife Conservation in Minnesota* signed by the author, Chapter member Carrol Henderson. A delicious dinner was followed by his slideshow presentation. Carrol included some sobering information about the toxic lead fragments left in deer gut piles going on to poison eagles and other scavengers. He urged everyone to switch to non-toxic ammunition which is widely available. He also spoke of the inhumane agonizing deaths of swans and other waterfowl from ingestion of lead sinkers accidentally lost by anglers when non-toxic alternatives are available. He ended with three anecdotes about swans, one of the many non-game animals he had a hand in restoring. Photos are from the book.

1. Super Mom #9 lived from 1989 - 2014. She raised 60 cygnets (some years seven, other years none) She was banded and came to Sheila & Jim Lawrence's property on the Mississippi River near Monticello every winter. Sheila fed the swans in the open area of the river below the nuclear power plant and kept immaculate records of how many cygnets she produced each year. Carrol went to visit the Lawrences at the swan's age of 20 and saw the one cygnet she had produced that year (2009). She returned with 2 cygnets in 2013 when she was 24 years old. She was last seen in 2014.



Supermom swan #9 at the age of twenty accompanied by her fifty-fifth cygnet at Monticello, December 21, 2009.

2. A report was received that swans had been shot so the local conservation officer went out to the marsh to look and found an injured swan cygnet. They picked it up, and when they did, another swan approached the canoe. Thinking it was also injured they picked it up too. But it wasn't injured. It was the father (cob) who wasn't going to leave the injured cygnet. Allowing itself to be picked up demonstrates how strong the filial bond among swans is. Both were taken to the veterinarian. After several days the cygnet died so the cob was returned to the marsh and released to rejoin its family.



DNR Conservation Officer Karl Hadrits with the healthy parent, a cob, that allowed itself to be picked up so it could stay with its wounded cygnet.
Photo by Susan Hadrits

3. Carrol was watching the swans along the Mississippi River in Monticello in Jan 1997. A swan swam up out of the flock and slowly made its way towards him as he sat on the riverbank with his camera. When it was a few feet away, Carrol was able to photograph the bird and its leg band. It turned out it was a swan that Carrol had collected as an egg in Alaska in June 1988. After hatching, it had been released on North Chippewa Lake at Tamarack NWR on May 23, 1990. He wondered if it had just stopped by to say "Hi Dad".



A visit from an old friend.

Opinion: Minnesota Moose Recovery Plan

An article on December 21 in the *Strib* by Greg Stanley on “Moose Recovery Plan” drew my attention. Stanley has been one of my favorite environmental reporters for several years, but I question this December 21 article.

It was reported in the *Strib* about 8 years ago that the brain worm caused by deer foraging on the same sources as moose was the worst threat to moose, more than wolf predation, climate change or tick infestation. Wolves have been around deer for ages and if we eliminate them, there goes another threatened or endangered species. Spraying for ticks is out because of other important insect species. We probably will never reverse climate change.

Studies by 3 agencies, DNR scientists, University of Minnesota scientists, and Fond du Lac Indian scientists, found that deer spreading brain worm through browsing was the most important detriment to moose recovery plans.

How was the moose population in NE Minnesota when the main tree cover before 1850 was pines, spruce, fir, white cedar and tamarack? Those species also protected moose from summer heat! Planting maple and birch would help but aspen is endemic everywhere in the north.

Probably reducing the brain worm problem spread by deer would be the easiest and cheapest method to partially solve the problem by reducing the deer herd with year-round-no-limit deer hunting in the known moose area. Not all deer would be eliminated as some would be overlooked and others would infiltrate from outside the area, but the reduction could be enough to ease the problem considerably.

As to escalating the timber cut and prescribed burning (as prescribed by the DNR etc.) it seems to me with what timbering continues and the vast number of wild fires and windstorm blow-downs lately, there should be plenty of natural regrowth for browse.

And don't forget accelerated browse is as good for deer as for moose, which will continue to feed the worst moose problem – deer and brain worm! Thinning out the deer herd could be implemented at much less cost, if any.

Dick Brown

2000 Roundup Study Retracted

Review by Karen Ostenso

The *Minnesota Star Tribune* printed an article on January 4, 2026, regarding a study done in 2000. That study stated that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, posed no human health risks. Subsequently, it has been used extensively as a weedkiller for many crops and by home gardeners. Although originally developed by Monsanto, an American company, it is now owned by Bayer, a German company.

The journal that published the 2000 study, “Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology,” has retracted the study, noting that Monsanto’s scientists played a significant role in writing the study. The journal has gone so far as to report “serious ethical concerns.”

The World Health Organization, as far back as 2015, called glyphosate “probably carcinogenic.” Bayer has paid upwards of \$10 billion to settle claims against Roundup. Legal action has been brought by food safety and farmworker advocates. As of now, however, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claims it is safe. EPA is required to reexamine its safety in 2026.

A pediatrician and public health researcher at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York calls it a “scientific fraud.”

A lot more information is available online. The issue of Roundup's safety has been controversial for many years and now seems to have become even more so. Withdrawal of the 2000 article by its publishers is an important step. The original article in the *StarTribune* was written by Hiroko Tabuchi for the *New York Times*.

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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.

Guests enjoy our speaker, Carrol Henderson at our Holiday Party. More inside.

