



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
January 2024

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Coming Events

January 2024

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 21 **Annual Holiday Party 4 pm, Dinner 5 pm, Program 6 pm:**
John Rust: *Exploring Wilderness*

February 2024

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Carrol Henderson
40 Years with Non-Game Wildlife

March 2024

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Solomon David
Aquatic Ecologist at UofM

John Rust, Featured Speaker

We welcome you to our Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, January 21 for an opportunity to meet old friends and new and to support the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Program. The Silent Auction and socializing will begin at 4p with a buffet supper catered by Carol Knutson at 5p and program at 6p. Our speaker will be our own John Rust, President of the Minnesota Division of IWLA, who will share some of his outdoor experiences from his recently published book, *Exploring Wilderness*. He will have books available for purchase.

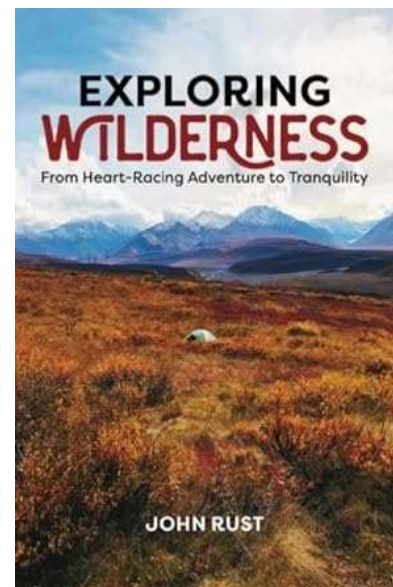
Please text, email or call Barb Franklin if you are coming so we can let the caterer know.
763-242-0432 bbfrankli@gmail.com

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Reminder -- Silent Auction Raises Scholarship Funds

At this year's holiday party, Sunday, January 21, we will again have many unique items donated by our members as well as a number of products, 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 pm and continue until 6 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, jjarnold@q.com) or Lori Johnson (763 560 2497). Items can be brought to the Chapter House on Saturday morning January 20 during set up or by 4 pm on January 21.



WLA Breckenridge Chapter

Holiday Party

Sunday, January 21, 2024

\$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

John Rust

Exploring Wilderness

Please RSVP to

Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)

Call or text

763-242-0432

Everyone Welcome

Carbon Footprint!?

On December 18, 2023, Minnesota Public Radio aired an episode of “On Point” in which Meghna Chakrabarti interviewed Geoffrey Supran, Miami University professor, and Amy Westerveldt, climate journalist.

They pointed out that the *Oxford English Dictionary*’s phrase of the year in 2007 was “carbon footprint.” The phrase came into common usage in 2003 after being introduced by British Petroleum (BP). They acquired AMOCO in the 1980s. BP provided a calculator for individuals to figure out their footprint. BP also spent about 100 million dollars a year to popularize the concept. At that time they also rebranded themselves as Beyond Petroleum.

BP knew that climate change was threatening their business so they focused on the responsibility of individuals to combat the worsening decline. Hence, the use of the individual carbon footprint concept to shift blame away from the petroleum industry. Producers of other harmful commodities had used similar tactics. Lead, alcohol, guns and tobacco all tried to disavow their responsibilities and push them onto individual consumers.

An article by Mark Gongloff of Bloomberg opinion was printed in the *StarTribune* on December 12 of 2023. He compared the quantity of emissions by individuals to that of some big corporations. He says Walmart emitted some 14 million tons of carbon last year, and BP emitted about 340 million tons last year. The main point of his article is that a good-sized Christmas tree produces less than 8 pounds of CO₂. In other words, there is no comparison with industry.

We obviously use petroleum products so we are not free of guilt. Professor Sukran spoke about all of us being born into a fossil fuel system which he labelled “passive” guilt. He called big oil “actively” guilty, for example, by campaigning to deny climate science, and by lobbying against cleaner energy regulations. He underscored that Exxon and others are equally at fault.

I won’t go into it here, but the professor talks about intentional influencing of public opinion started by Standard Oil decades ago.

The entire episode can be found on the “On Point” website December 19. It is produced by WBUR in Boston.

Karen Ostenso

Breckenridge Chapter Board Meeting Highlights December 12, 2023

Conservation Issues/Legislative

- 400 Asian carp were netted from Mississippi River Pool 6 at Winona. The breeding population has not reached the Twin Cities yet, but we need to be alert
- Get the Lead Out: Tom Casey encourages support with our legislators in the next session

Chapter House Rentals:

- We are booked full through the winter season.

DNR Report a Major Win for Native Fish

By Tyler Winter

The Izaak Walton League has been the leading voice for native fish conservation in Minnesota. Last year, the league submitted a legal petition requesting new regulations to conserve our native “rough” fish. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources proposed a collaboration, wherein the league would participate in a stakeholder workgroup and the DNR would seek reforms, including statutory changes, beyond the scope of the original petition. This aligned with the “No Junk Fish Bill” which required recommendations for statutory reforms to support native fish.

Just before Christmas the DNR issued the “Native Fish Conservation Report” which fulfills the requirements of the “No Junk Fish” bill and the IWLA collaboration. Our collaboration with the DNR was not always easy, but the results speak for themselves as the report is able to go far beyond the requests in the original petition.

The first recommendation is to reform statute 97A.015 subd 43 to remove common carp from the definition of “rough fish”. Furthermore, they propose renaming the category to denote the value of these native species. This simple change would then require amending 22 more statutes and 14 administrative rules which reference the old definition of “rough fish”. Each of the affected statutes is an opportunity to manage these native fish as a resource, instead of as a problem.

The second recommendation is for the DNR to use expedited rulemaking to create possession limits for all native species formerly known as “rough fish”. Expedited rulemaking requires legislative approval because it significantly reduces red tape for the agency.

Lastly, the report recommends seven DNR initiatives.

1. Evaluate the state's wanton waste policy.
2. Hire a native fish biologist to implement the report recommendations.
3. Add a bowfishing license.
4. Review commercial harvest of native fish and close commercial fishing areas where appropriate.
5. Review the list of endangered, threatened or species of concern fish species and make changes as appropriate.
6. Implement educational and outreach activities for native "rough" fish.
7. Implement habitat improvements that benefit native fish.

The “Native Fish Conservation Report” addresses the concerns first outlined in the League’s petition to the DNR. But, the agencies support has taken the recommendations further to include statutory reforms, future initiatives, education, habitat improvements and commercial fishing. It is an example of how much can be done when leadership aligns the work of managers, stakeholders and legislators.



Red Oak Felled

We mourned another one of our red oaks last week. It was over a century old when it died (they live on average for 300 years and some up to 500 years). A mature red oak sequesters around seven tons of carbon. This one will soon be releasing its carbon back into the atmosphere as it is being converted into firewood. At least it will be replacing fossil fuel heat for the most part. Next spring we will select trees to replace it and some of the others we have lost. In a century we may be back to where we were this year on Chapter House forest carbon sequestration.



FMSNA asks Ikes members to contact their own Representative and Senator about these issues, asking them to contact Commissioner Strommen urging her to adopt the requests stated in this FMSNA letter dated 12/11/23



Friends of Minnesota
Scientific & Natural Areas

December 11, 2023

Commissioner Sarah Strommen
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Via Hand Delivery and Certified Mail

Re: Please Remove Incompatible Uses on Proposed SNAs

Dear Commissioner Strommen,

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas would first like to compliment the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the progress to attain the long-range goals for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) across Minnesota. Acquiring and moving forward to designate 914 acres is a positive step.

However, we note that, although the DNR has closed on the acquisition of 13 SNAs (totaling 914 acres), all of them are awaiting a Commissioner's Designation Order (CDO). Your signature of the CDOs will make these parcels an official and legal Scientific and Natural Area and receive all of the protections the SNA statutes and rules provide. Furthermore, this will be a significant step towards reducing the 11,369-acre shortfall from the 2014 SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan's goal of designating "... an average (mean) of 1,600 additional acres of SNA per year." [If no SNA acres are designated in 2023, the shortfall will increase to 12,969 acres.]

In addition, the language of each CDO memorializes protections and uses. We note that the DNR has proposed incompatible uses - such as dogs, berry-picking, picnicking, and undefined hunting - on some of these pending SNAs awaiting a CDO.

Therefore, we respectfully request that all of your CDOs contain the following language, consistent with many of the existing CDOs, such as Crystal Springs SNA (published February 8, 2016):

"FURTHERMORE, the _____ Scientific and Natural Area is designated as a Public Use unit, open to the public for nature observation and general educational and research activities.

"IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the provisions of Minnesota Rules 6136.010 through 6136.0600 shall apply to the above designated are except that the

Commissioner may decide to allow hunting if and when documented ecological needs arise that can best be resolved by hunting with such limitations as the Commissioner determines are necessary for protection of the values for which the site was designated."

We also respectfully request that all of the new CDOs, where hunting is allowed, contain the non-toxic ammunition requirements, as stated in your June 27, 2023 "Commissioner's Order Amending the Commissioner's Designation Order for 56 Scientific and Natural Areas to Require Non-Toxic Ammunition ..."

We also note that the DNR's Natural Heritage Advisory Committee (NHAC) adopted virtually the same recommendations in the CDO quoted above, in a letter to you dated June 5, 2020:

"Our default position is to allow only those uses allowed in the statute, as follows: For nature observation and general education and research activities; and/or allow activities that are intended to preserve the value of the SNA, such as hunting to manage deer populations.

Furthermore, the Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Natural Heritage (CAC) advocated for non-toxic ammunition on all SNAs as far back as a letter to the DNR dated August 25, 2016, which states in part:

"... CAC also strongly urges the Department to allow only non-toxic ammunition on all SNAs."

We look forward to your reply - and to working with the DNR and Minnesota citizens to protect and enhance Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas, the "crown jewels" of Minnesota's state land base.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Thomas E. Casey

Thomas E. Casey
Board Chair
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, Inc.

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.

January Haiku

From John Moriarty's
one day and three lines at a time:
a year of nature haiku

Small gray and black birds
Back and forth and back again
Chickadees feeding

