



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League

July 2025

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

July 2025

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Diane Hirigoyen, Xerxes Society: Firefly Conservation

August 2025

- 5 National Night Out
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Environmentalist Ron Way: E15 ethanol requirements and subsidies

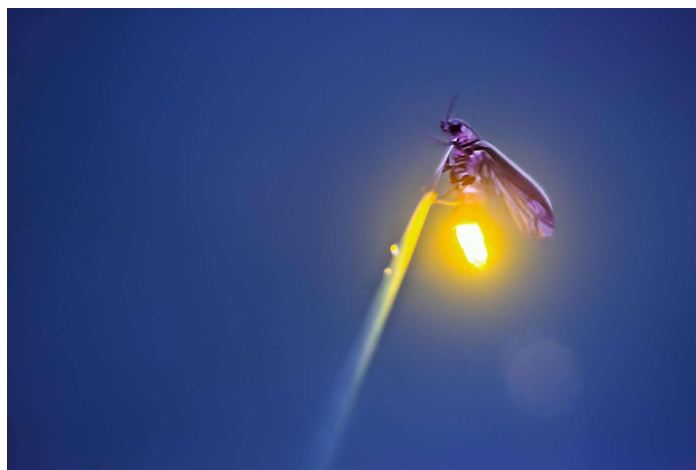
September 2025

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Phyllis Root: Flower Chaser



Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday, July 22 7:30 pm
Diane Hirigoyen

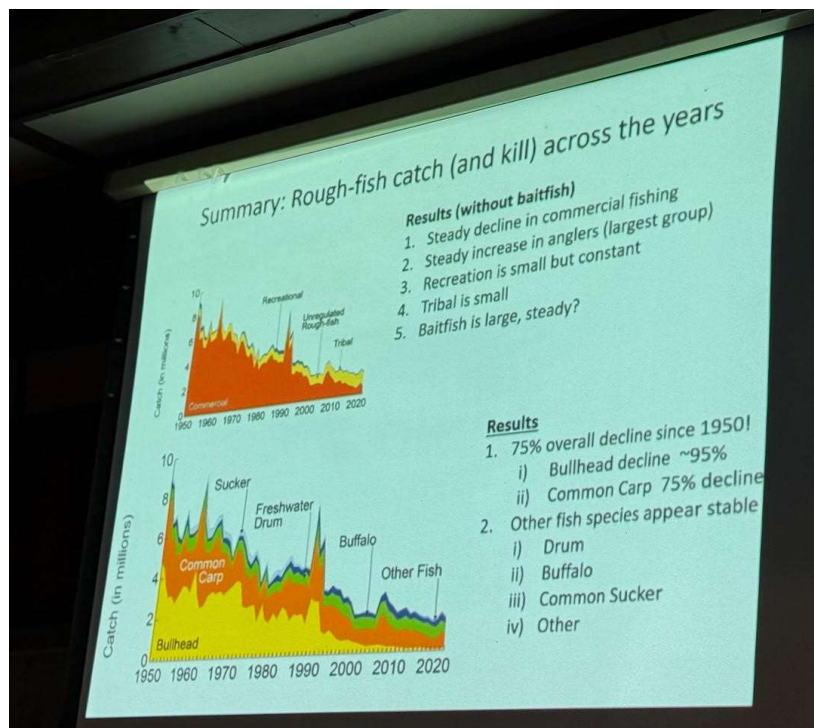


Come join us July 22 at 7:30 PM at our Chapter House (8816 W. River Rd) to hear from Xerxes Society ambassador Diane Hirigoyen on the subject of conservation of fireflies whose numbers are Chasing Flowersexplore fun and surprising facts about fireflies, ootspecies and where they live and simple ways you can help protect their natural habitats.

Diane is a retired microbiologist who is passionate about educating people about the importance of invertebrates. Her other interests include her gardening avocation which led her to complete the U of M/ Arboretum ProHort / Master Gardener class in 2021. Stay after the talk for light refreshments and a social time with Diane and the audience members.

The Status of Rough Fish in Minnesota

In his presentation of the latest rough fish historical take data at our June meeting, Prof. Peter Sorenson presented his thoughts and recommendations. Following is a summary of the Minnesota Division's rough fish workgroup's comment to the DNR which includes the data and analysis from the timely study.





Dear Dr. Fisher,

Under the leadership of Dave Olfelt and John Rust, the Minnesota DNR and Izaak Walton League entered into a cooperative agreement to further native fish conservation in Minnesota. We are pleased you have shared this proposal as our collaborative work continues.

Overall, your proposal is a great first step. However, we see some areas where it could be improved. First this proposal does not address the wanton waste of our native fish- a primary concern of ours and many others. The Minnesota Division of the IWLA has championed conservation of our native fish because indiscriminate waste offends our values. If these new possessions limits are put in place without wanton waste enforcement, we will miss the opportunity for reform.

Second, this proposal suggests a limit of 30 for six of the eight proposed categories of native fish. It is obvious to the casual observer that suckers, freshwater drum, buffalo, and bullheads require different regulations. Applying the same limit to so many categories undermine the principles of scientific management and threatens to degrade trust in the process. Furthermore, different limits are now being suggested by ongoing research.

Recently, the IWL heard from Dr. Peter Sorensen of the UMN who is working with Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries at the University of British Columbia to reconstruct the status of Minnesota's fisheries and rough fish. These data rely on MN DNR lake survey data and catch data provided by the MN DNR as well the USGS, interviews with experts, social media and news media sources. Tens of thousands of data records were reviewed. Preliminary results were also presented at the MN AFS meeting where they were favorably received, and a publication is now in the works in a high impact journal.

Dr. Sorensen and his team's analysis of typical daily native rough fish harvest shows that no recreational fisher, except some tournament archers (slide shown on 6/24/25 displayed below), harvested more than 5 individuals from a proposed regulatory group on a typical outing (median). Possession limits of 30 appear to maintain the status quo for number-based harvest tournaments. Yet, the current Land of Lakes tournament standings only show 25 active teams of 3-4 individuals. Are 100 tournament archers going to set the native fish limits for every recreational harvest method in the state? A possession limit of 5 fish per group is scientifically justified by current harvest data and would presumably protect fish from further improvements in harvest efficiency as Sorensen et al.'s data suggest most harvest is sustainable. In contrast, a higher limit of 10 would not impact anyone not participating in a tournament. Possession limits of more than 10, if pursued could lead to increased catch and degradation of the fishery. We support limits of 5 for buffaloes (south zone), drum, gar and bowfin, and if necessary, a limit of 10 for suckers, redhorse, and mooneye/ goldeye. We also support closing the north buffalo zone until successful recruitment is documented. We also encourage you to consult with Dr. Sorensen about bullhead because his team's analysis shows this group of species to be in notable decline state-wide.

The Present Scenario (“status quo”)

Approx Daily Roughfish Catch per private fisher in 2022

	Rec Bycatch	Bow Shore	Bow interm	Bow Tourn	Bow Guided	Anglers	Subsiste nce
Common carp	<1	3	6	18	6	<1	Y
Bullhead	<<1	0	0	0	0	1	<1
Buffalo	<1	<1	2	8	<1	<1	Y
Drum	1?	<1	0	0	1	4	Y
Sucker	<1	0	0	0	0	0	Y
Redhorse	<<1	3	2	20	1	4	Y
Bowfin	<1	<<1	2	7	1	<1	0
Gar	<<1	<<1	1	17	1	<1	0
Other?	Very few	<<1	<2	<40	<1	<2	?

Third, we believe the DNR should review its oversight, regulations, and permitting of the bait and commercial fishing industries as Dr. Sorensen shows these sectors to be the biggest users of rough fish overall. Although Dr. Sorensen has retired from the U and moved out of state, he maintains a strong interest in Minnesota’s fisheries and is still very willing to help, with the understanding that he is somewhat less available now (soren003@umn.edu).

Lastly, it is worth mentioning the diverse life histories contained in the sucker and redhorse categories (Catostomidae). Some of these species may live only a few years and reach a foot long, while others live over 40 years and reach two and half feet long. The largest individuals of the largest species in each group will receive the most pressure so slot limits are warranted.

Thank you and the MN DNR for the sincere concern you have shown for Minnesota’s fisheries and reaching out to us for our opinions. We look forward to continued collaboration.

Signed,

MN Division IWLA Native Fish Subcommittee

This letter to the editor appeared in the Saturday, June 28 Star Tribune

Opinion: Murder is not 'populist' violence

After shootings of public officials and their families, the governor and Minnesota Legislature can take steps to truly engage the populace.

By PAULA MACCABEE, STEVE MORSE, DON ARNOSTI AND JOHN SIEKMEIER

We were disappointed to read the Star Tribune's repetition (front page, June 23) of Professor Robert Pape's misguided characterization of murder targeting Minnesota political leaders as "violent populism." Let us be clear.

Murder and attempted murder of Minnesota legislators and their family members are not "populism." They are the exact opposite. The murder and attempted murder of Minnesota House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and state Sen. John Hoffman were a direct attack on the voice of the populace (people).

Hortman and Hoffman were elected to represent the people in free and fair popular votes.

Their murder and attempted murder were an arrogant use of violence by one person to put his own, twisted attitudes above the ideals and opinions of the tens of thousands of people who voted for legislators to act on their behalf.

Hortman led with respect, intelligence, grace and humor.

She sought and achieved both compromise and progress and believed that all Minnesotans were part of one civic community.

She cared about our clean water, our sustainable energy future, and the health and welfare of all Minnesotans — not just the powerful ones. Hoffman, who survived the attack, has repeatedly voted and introduced legislation to protect ordinary Minnesotans, including people with disabilities and people seeking to adopt. He is anything but an advocate for the "elite."

Melissa's husband, Mark Hortman, was a hardworking, authentic and passionate family man with interests in home brewing, fostering service dogs, and anything techrelated.

John's wife, Yvette Hoffman, is an educational support professional in an elementary school where she's known for her warmth and patience with kindergartners.

The inaccurate labeling of the murder of Melissa and Mark Hortman and attempted murder of John and Yvette Hoffman as "violent populism" is just wrong. The correct word for violence against these legislators and their loved ones is "terrorism." It is the extreme and unlawful use of violence and intimidation against civilians in the pursuit of political aims.

We will not accept it. We, the people, must stand together against murder and terrorism.

As a first step, we must reject language that excuses or seems to normalize murder and attempted murder.

But we need to do more. To embrace the populism that Rep. Hortman stood for and Sen. Hoffman stands for, we must make it more difficult for future murderers and terrorists to attack Minnesota leaders and their families in their homes. We call upon the governor and the Legislature to convene a special session to fund personal security for our public servants and to make it more difficult for criminals to impersonate law enforcement.

In addition, we call upon the Legislature to open wide Minnesota hearing rooms at the State Capitol and nearby offices. Ban the possession of guns in these public buildings, screen for weapons, and then welcome the public to listen, speak up, and learn to cherish the process of civic and civil discussion in our democracy.

We must demonstrate that Minnesota "populism" is found in the ballot box and the hearing room, never in the barrel of a gun.

Paula Maccabee is executive director of WaterLegacy. Steve Morse is executive director of Minnesota Environmental Partnership. Don Arnosti is a board member for WaterLegacy. John Siekmeier is president of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America.

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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.

Membership Volunteer Needed

Are you a Breckenridge Chapter member of the Ikes?

Our membership determines not only our Chapter activities, but also how big a voice we have in the State and National organization. Membership runs from January through December, but notices go out in September for the following year, so that's the busiest time, but we need a new Membership Renewal Officer. Your help would be very much appreciated.

The new digital system for entering members into the database is established by the national office, so familiarity with the internet is required, but training modules are online to help in getting started, and there are 2 people at the national office to help as needed.

If you have questions or are willing to help out with renewing current members and enrolling new members, please contact: bbfrankli@gmail.com or kostenso@hotmail.com