



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
November 2022

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

November 2022

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm
Brett Ostby: Protecting Freshwater Mussels

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 2022

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 Social/Educational meeting 7:30 pm
Greg Hoch, Author of *With Wings Extended*

Social Educational Meeting: Tuesday November 22, 7:30 p.m. Malacologist Brett Ostby: Protecting Freshwater Mussels

Join us at the Chapter House on Tuesday, November 22, 7:30 PM to hear biologist Brett J. K. Ostby, provide an overview of the science and business of freshwater mussel conservation. He will also provide real life examples of how state and federal endangered species regulations work and where they fall short.



Having started his career as an academic, Brett never intended to run a business or deal with construction schedules, engineers, and regulators on a daily basis. Nevertheless, he found a place where a commitment to protection of natural resources was needed and where his scientific training could be put to use. Nevertheless, remaining an independent voice while providing a commercial service has been challenging.

Stay afterward for light refreshments, beverage and socialization with others and the speaker.

We are seeking new Breckenridge Chapter members as well as candidates for three open spots on the Board. Please let any Board member know if you are interested in helping us maintain our legacy of conservation.

Effective Conservation in Our Era: Democracy Under Siege

Don Arnosti, a great policy advocate for the conservation-minded, returned to our Chapter House to give us his perspective and suggestions on a path forward in these times when it seems that gridlock at our State Capitol is in the way of solutions to the crisis in our natural world. Thanks to Tim Johnson for this review.

Here are some of Don's situation analysis and antidotes:

- Political Polarization
 - Listen to opposition
 - Seek their kernel of truth
 - Walk a mile in their shoes
 - Be sincerely open to learning
 - Take the first step toward compromise
 - No name calling
 - Hate the sin, not the sinner
- Fake News/Junk Science
 - Avoid it and speak truth to power
- Money Controls Politics
 - People power
- Government Capture by Corporate interests



<u>Corporate Interest</u>	versus	<u>Public Interest</u>
• Logging Quota for WMAs		• Manage WMAs for wildlife
• School Trust Land managed to maximize \$\$\$		• School Trust Land managed for \$\$\$ <u>and</u> sustainability
• CAFOs - never an EIS, record of water pollution (Austin)		• Managed grazing benefits land, water, food quality
• Mining permits w/no pollution limits		• Maximize recycling/reuse; protect fresh water
• Neonic sales at will		• Protecting pollinators
• Fertilizer application at will		• Protecting groundwater
• Eliminate Water Quality Stds.		• Enforcing the Clean Water Act

WMA - Wildlife Management Areas
CAFO - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
EIS - environmental impact statement

Antidote for a “lost” government:



- Name the problem: “Our government serves corporate not public interests...”
- Demand politicians who see and will correct the problem... “Public Service in the Public Interest!”
- Be politically active and VOTE this issue!

Dr. Don's Prescription For Effective Conservation in Our Era

- LISTEN to our youth: let them lead!
- Read a little information daily (skip TV.)
- Don't Overdose!
- Avoid Fake News (of the Right or Left)
- Clarify Your Values (Living Will?)
- Align Your Life with Your Values
- Shop Your Values (\$\$ = Speech)
- Boycott Businesses That Don't Align
- **Speak Out Privately and Publicly**
- Caucus and VOTE!



Don ranked the efficacy of methods of speaking out in the following order:

Personal Visit > Phone Call > Personal letter > Attending a Demonstration > Email > Petition > Facebooking your Friends > Weeping Alone in a Closet

Resolve to conduct at least one act of Conservation, Daily!



(Your Grandchildren Will Thank You)

Opinion: “Loving” Our Wildlife

By Dick Brown

A few weeks ago, Dennis Anderson wrote an article in the *Strib* about how a friend of his loved ducks. He loved to watch them. And then in further lines this same fellow loved to shoot them. How inconsistent can that be? One loves his wife, his children and maybe his neighbor; but does he also shoot, maim or otherwise kill or harm them? He does not love ducks or even like them but likes or loves to shoot them, period.

As a past avid Duck, Grouse, and Pheasant hunter I know the sportsman’s feelings; a lust to flush, to shoot moving live targets is strong. The sportsman’s skill with instruments of death! How brave the soul!

For 30 years I was a very adamant hunter of these small game (1950-1980). My dogs seemed even more enthused than I. Their lack of benevolence was more excusable than mine due to their inherent nature. But aren’t I and other human beings supposed to be more on the benevolent side? Many are.

In the late 1970’s I began to join a few environmental organizations and read several books by prominent nature authors such as: Sigurd Olson, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Kevin Proescholdt, Peter Singer, Michael Frome, Dave Foreman, Darby Nelson, Walter J. Breckenridge, Alan Weisman, Paul Gruchow and several others. None of them condemned hunting I don’t believe, but neither did they extoll the glamor of the sport. In aggregate I got the feeling that perhaps it is more grandeur to protect these and other species that are certainly not detrimental to man nor to other species.

So, do we “love” our wildlife (depending on various meaning of love) or do we just “love” to blast hell out of them for sport?

In 1980, (at age 53 still in good physical shape) I set aside my shotguns and only use them once in a while to achieve the “balance” of nature which Mankind has so caused the imbalance of.

No doubt I’ll hear about this article, but someone must speak for the “other side”. They cannot. Sometimes a person’s mind evolves to a different place in: politics, religion, conservation, sports, etc.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights: October 11, 2022

- Staff from the National Park Service and member Tim Johnson made a second pass spraying Triclopyr for severe buckthorn infestation over same area treated in 2021 on Banfill Island. Native Snakeroot has come back thick. Young buckthorn elsewhere on Banfill island is being browsed by deer, indicating they are having difficulty finding their preferred food.
- We have lost some Bur Oaks due to Bur Oak blight exacerbated by the drought these past two years.
- The National Park Service asked permission to install camera traps on Banfill Island to look for Pine Martins expanding their range. Authorization was granted with request to share their data.
- Karen Ostenso, Chair of the Membership Committee has mailed out 2023 membership forms. Please respond promptly; this determines our representation on State matters.

Breckenridge Chapter Memorial Bench

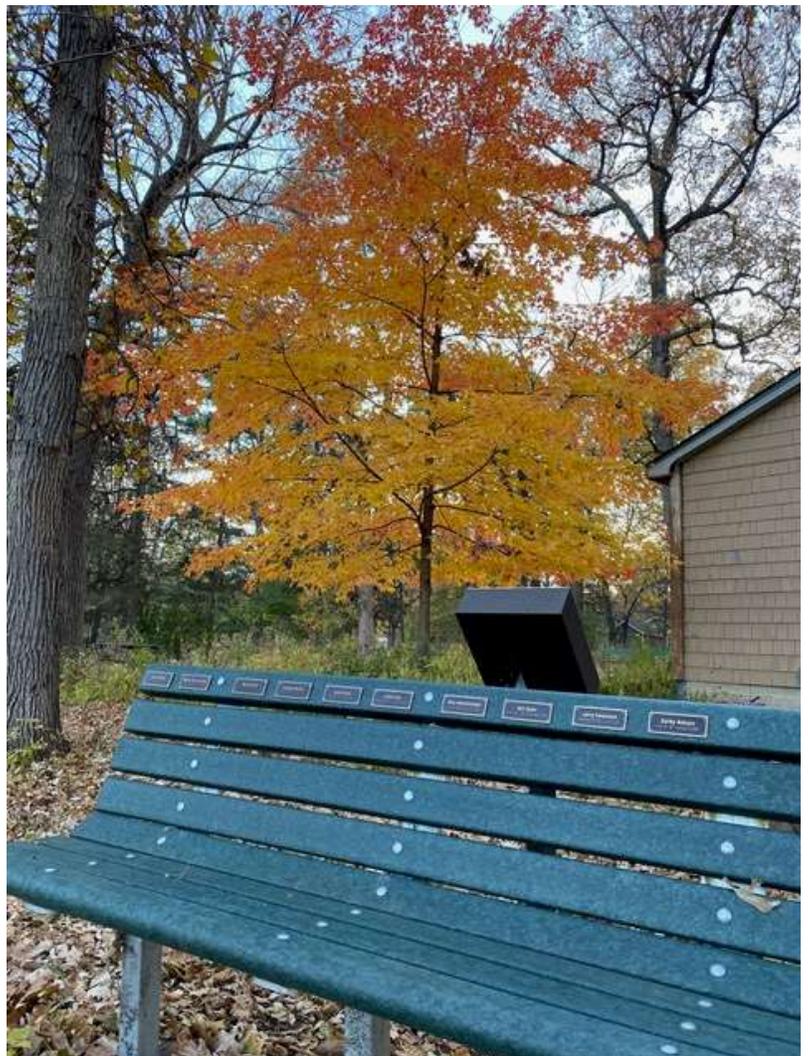
A Memorial Bench commemorating members who have made significant contributions to the Breckenridge Chapter's legacy of conservation has been completed by Jerry Steele and other members of the committee, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown and Barbara Franklin. The bench is now in place on the bank where Wes Hendrickson enjoyed looking out over the Mississippi. Feel free to do the same. So far the following members have been added to the bench itself:

Walter Breckenridge
George Decker
Louis Dinzl
Wes Hendrickson
Gene Knopp
Darby Nelson
Erica Sitz
Betty Stein
Bill Stein
Larry Swanson



In Memory...

Condolences to Marlys Carls-Steiskal, former *Timberlines* editor, whose husband Dave Steiskal died on November 1. Memorial service to be held on Thursday, November 10 at 11 a.m. at Brooklyn United Methodist, 7200 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center with visitation 1 hour prior to service. Visitation also from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, November 9 at Evans-Nordby Funeral Home, 6000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center.



History of the Breckenridge Chapter, Part 1

This is the first 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 second half will appear in a later issue of *Timberlines*.

In 1934, almost a decade after the founding of the first Minneapolis Chapter of the IWLA in 1923, the North Minneapolis Chapter (most of the founding members hailing from the Camden area of Minneapolis) was organized and procured property from the Rum River Boom Co. on the banks of the Mississippi River to build their Chapter House. That company had a previous interest in the land (acquired through eminent domain) for their logging business. In the mid-nineteenth century the channel of the Mississippi there had been used to store logs over winter so the lumber mills in Minneapolis had some wood to work with early in the spring before the ice broke up further north on the Rum River. There are still signs in the riverbed today of the rock-filled log cribbings used to anchor the log booms.

The Chapter House, situated on West River Road, was completed in 1936 on 4 acres of second growth burr and red oak, basswood, elm, green ash and ironwood forest. There was no running water or indoor toilet but it served as a club house where the environmentally minded could get away from the busy city and meet to discuss the conservation issues of the day.

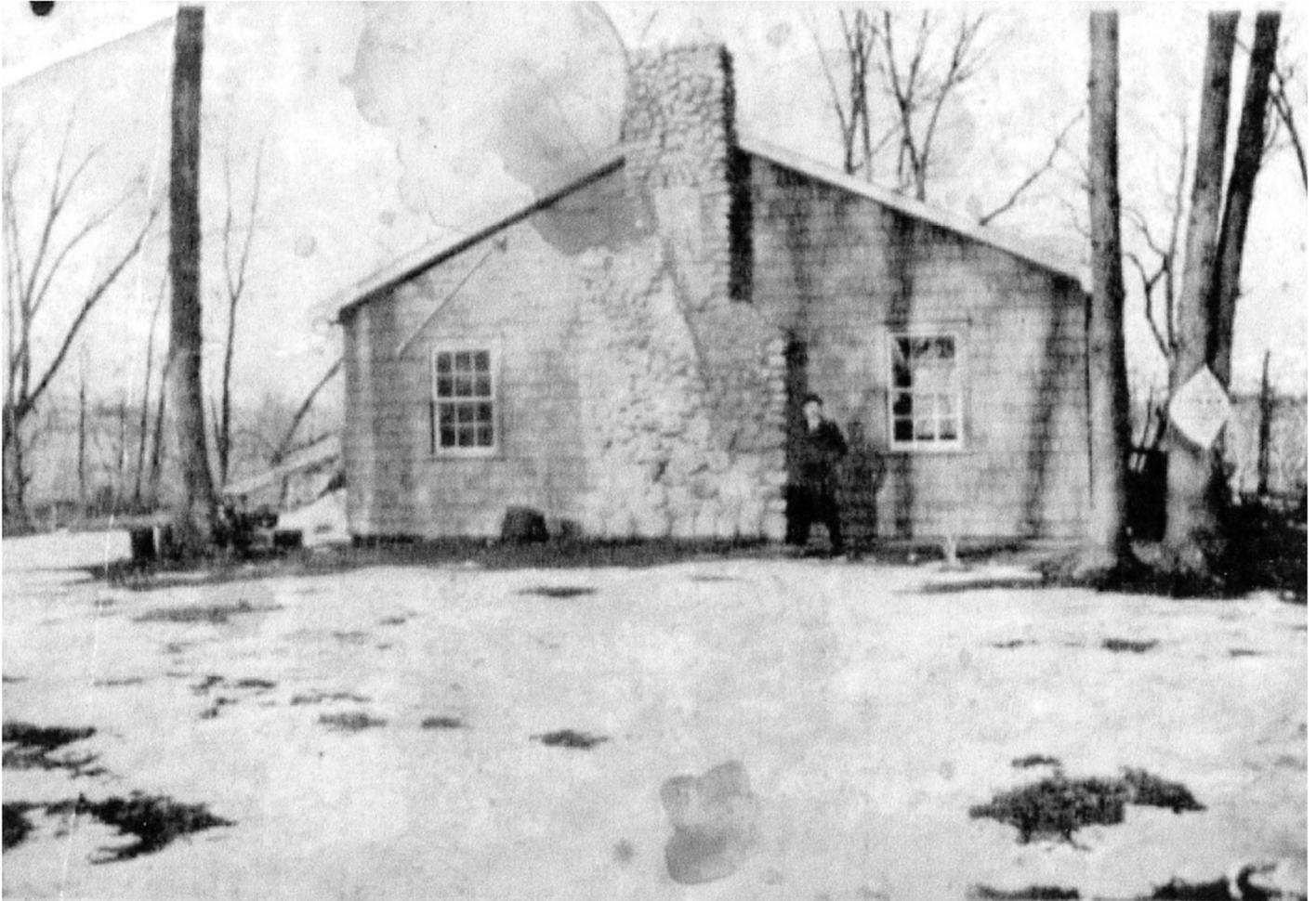


Figure 1 George Rickert who collected the stones from each state in the union to incorporate into the fireplace stands by the completed structure in 1936

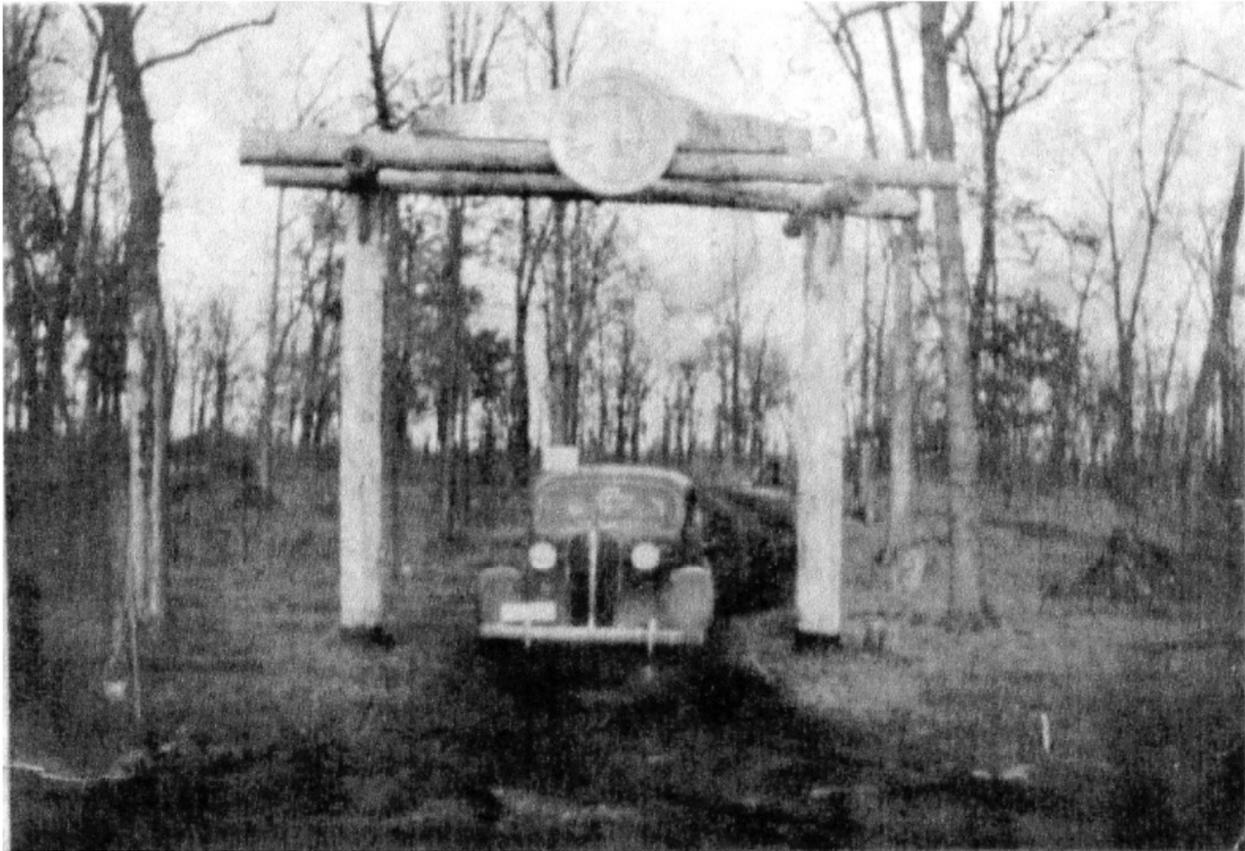


Figure 2 George Rickert's 1936 automobile in which he carried the fireplace rocks from each State of the Union passes under the entrance to the North Minneapolis Chapter.

Early aerial photos from 1937 show the logging companies had already stripped the area of all the old growth hardwood and farmers who dominated the area in all directions had removed almost all vestiges of native plant life. Despite this clear cutting of the area's original oak savanna, a decade earlier in 1926 State Auditor Ray Chase had published an opinion piece in the Camden Park Bulletin expressing his vision of the potential for West River Road (which he hoped would be renamed North Lyndale as it was in Minneapolis) to be the choice residential thoroughfare of the northwest, protected by zoning to prohibit commercial enterprises. He wrote "I know of no other street, avenue or thoroughfare that offers greater advantages in a scenic way than does this beautiful route from Camden Park to its junction with the Jefferson highway at Champlin... There is the open prairie, the woodland sections where on one side is the Father of Waters and on the other, a varied landscape evocative of the peace and quiet only found away from the noisy city."

By the time the N. Minneapolis Chapter was getting going, the Ikes had already succeeded in establishing the Upper Mississippi River Refuge and bringing an end to the dumping of raw sewage into the river by the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Nascent battles prior to WW II to protect the Mississippi headwater lakes from being drawn down to raise the navigation channels below the Twin Cities had begun. IWLA members Ernest Oberholtzer and Sigurd Olson were beginning the long fight to protect the Superior National Forest and what was to become the BWCA. North Minneapolis Chapter members must have been involved in these struggles during the first decades of their existence, but if they kept records of their efforts, none have been found. One of the charter members, George Rickert (1885-1969), left a trail of conservation minded letters to the editor of the Minneapolis Star and he and others assuredly penned many letters to Washington DC and to the Governor and members of the Minnesota Legislature on issues with which the IWLA was concerned. Field trips sponsored by the Chapter included an angling party to Lake Mille Lacs in 1954 attended by over twenty members.

Somewhere around the time of the passing on of the founders' generation, a large addition to the Chapter House containing more meeting space, restroom facilities and kitchen was completed. With this addition, the

building was licensed to hold 100 occupants which allowed much larger gatherings, including not only Chapter programs, but also rentals for private social events. The facilities have had recent upgrades. Information on rentals which provide a constant income used to support the Chapter's programs and upkeep can be found at <https://www.breckenridgeikes.org/rentals>



Figure 3 The Chapter House was re-sided and brought up to date by volunteers in 2004

But by the early 1980s, with fewer hot button environmental issues stimulating local environmentalists, the Chapter membership had dwindled and the few who continued to meet often only came to share a few beers with likeminded friends with little or no business being conducted. Officers went so far as to hatch a plan to sell the Chapter House and its land and to divide the spoils amongst themselves before folding the Chapter. Thanks to a few new members like Dick Brown, Jim Arnold and Dr. Walter Breckenridge, that plan was just narrowly voted down. A new strategy to revive the Chapter was agreed upon which involved publishing a regular Chapter periodical called the *Timberlines* and holding monthly conservation themed talks with a social hour and refreshments following. A Boy Scout troop held their regular meetings at the Chapter House as did the local Lion's Club which shared expenses.

Defying Her Watery Tomb

An Ode By Dick Brown

On the tip of “Grandma’s Point”
Which juts into the pond
Stands an old dead Cottonwood Tree
Of which we’re very fond.

Still standing on the shoreline
For everyone to see,
It seems the only ones to care
Are only you and me?

Her trunk still strong and awesome,
Her main branches stark and bare,
It’s hard to believe at any time
She still may not be there.

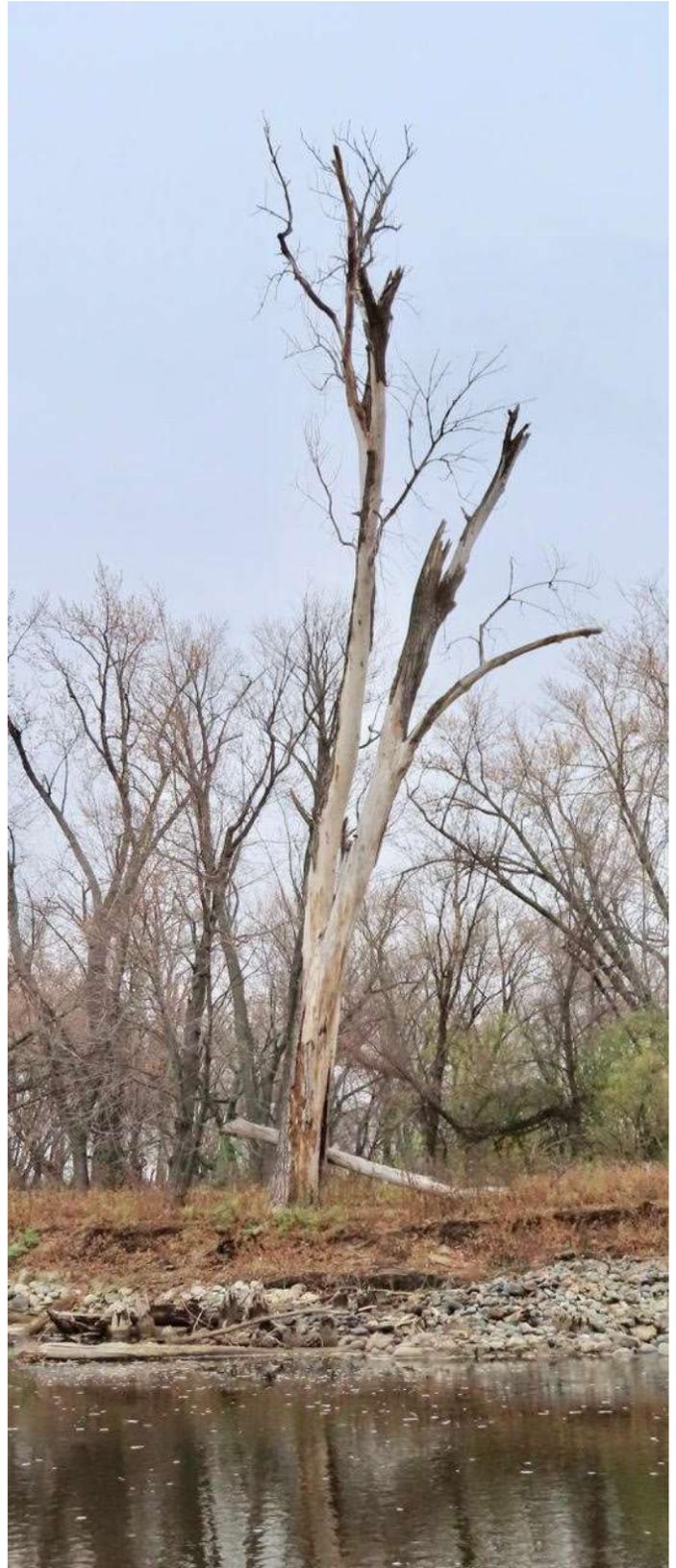
Woodpeckers drill neat holes with skill
And lay their eggs within,
Then search around for grubs and bugs
To feed their young therein.

Remember when her branches spread
And shadowed most the point?
And leaves that fluttered in the breeze
All life around seemed to anoint.

Remember when she cast her down
And many a creature’s nest
Were lined with cotton she had shed,
So, baby birds in peace could rest?

The day will come, and she will fall
Into a watery bed,
The scene will change at nature’s call.
Wish she’d lived on instead!

*Note: The old dead Cottonwood tree can be seen S.E.
of the old Jefferson Highway bridge on Champlin’s
Lower Mill Pond.*



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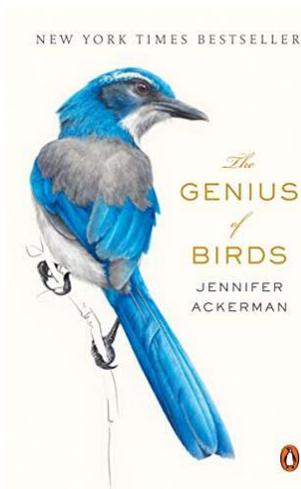


If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to
Barbara Franklin at: bbfrankli@gmail.com
Deadline is the First Day of each month.

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.

The Genius of Birds

by
Jennifer Ackerman



The Genius of Birds was recommended to me by someone who said she now views birds in an entirely new light. In this very readable book Jennifer Ackerman has tapped into the amazing behavior and intelligence that birds exhibit. Though their brains may be 1000 times smaller than ours, the number and arrangement of

neurons allows them feats of extraordinary mental powers. They use geometric clues to navigate through unknown territory, and locate hidden treasures. They can store food for the winter and make sure they retrieve it before it spoils. Jays use

Machiavellian tactics to hide their stashes from other jays. Some birds store hundreds of different songs, and their vocal cord construction allows them to harmonize with themselves.

As she travels around the world to the most cutting-edge frontiers of research, Ackerman not only tells the story of the recently uncovered genius of birds but also delves deeply into the latest findings about the bird brain itself that are shifting our view of what it means to be intelligent. At once personal yet scientific, richly informative and beautifully written, *The Genius of Birds* celebrates the triumphs of these surprising and fiercely intelligent creatures.

Review by Barbara Franklin