



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
October 2025

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

October 2025

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

November 2025

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Senator John Hoffman (MN34)
Environmental Legislation in Minnesota
During the Upcoming Session

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday, October 28 7:30 pm

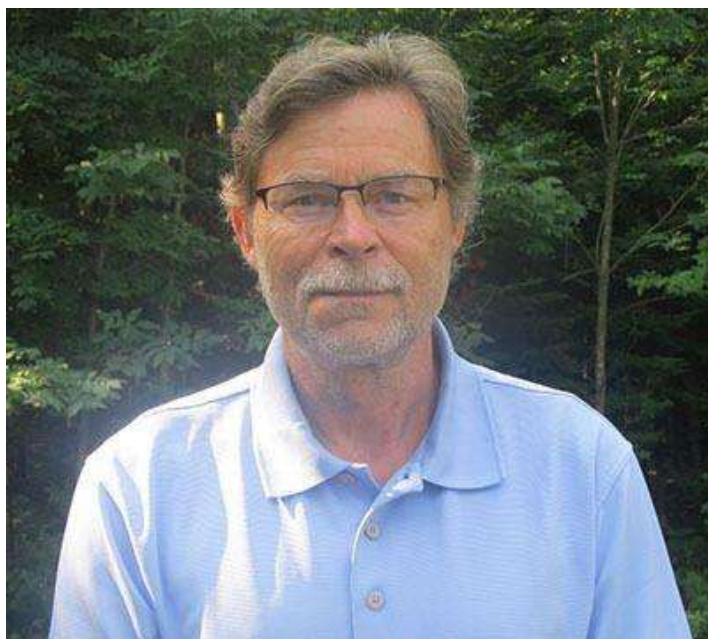
Bruce Anderson, DNR:
Our Loss of Wild Lands

During his 35 year career as a federal and state natural resource manager across multiple states, Bruce Anderson has been alarmed at the extent and rapidity of the loss of pre-European settlement wildlands at the national scale (Lower 48 states) and in Minnesota and factors contributing to this decline.

He retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in July 2017. During his four years with the DNR he was Assistant Wildlife Manager and wildlife planner where he was involved wildlife surveys, planning, wildlife damage management, habitat assessments, invasive species management and Interdisciplinary support to timber management.

Prior to this, Bruce worked with the US Forest Service in North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and most recently on the Superior National Forest in Northern MN. During his Forest Service career he worked in program management positions for invasive species, wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, trails, rangeland management, wildlife, fire effects and recreation. Bruce also worked at length within five wilderness areas on wilderness related topics including fire effects monitoring, livestock and recreational grazing, wildlife damage management, invasive species control, motorized use management, and wild and scenic rivers.

Please join us and stay afterward for light refreshments and a social time.





Saving the Boundary Waters from Sulfide-ore Mining Pollution

Protecting the boundary waters of Minnesota and Canada has been a goal of many Ikes going back to our founder Will Dilg. Back then the fight began in order to kill plans to build a road to every lake and to build a series of dams along the border. If you are interested in this history, the book entitled *Saving Quetico Superior: A Land Set Apart* by R. Newell Searle, 1977 presents the history of the struggle which ended in the protection of this treasure as a wilderness.

Legendary Ikes like Sigurd Olson, Bud Heinselman and Ernest Oberholtzer were key to passing initial legislation but the work to protect the area continues as new threats emerge. Our September speaker, Ingrid Lyons the Executive Director of Save the Boundary Waters, explained that her organization was formed in 2012 with the goal of a permanent ban on sulfide-ore copper mining in the Rainey River headwaters which flow into the boundary waters ecosystem, one of the rarest on the planet. During the Biden administration the mining leases owned by Twin Metals were withdrawn for a 20-year moratorium during which time legislation to codify the protection would be pursued. But with the election of Donald Trump, his allies see a path to reverse the withdrawal. Ingrid emphasized that we must be extremely vigilant as Rep. Stauber (R), 8th District (after failing to get his legislation included in the recent reconciliation bill) urges a change in administrative rules to overturn the mineral withdrawal (a highly illegal and unprecedented act).

She said that we have to recognize that over the next few years of the Trump presidency, the federal government is going to fail us on this matter. We are also working against an extremely deep-pocketed family who own a controlling interest in the Antofagasta Mineral company (owner of Twin Metals) and are directing a large amount of resources toward lobbying Congress.



At the State of Minnesota level, Ingrid said it is not all doom and gloom. Cutting across all demographics, 70% of Minnesotans want the BWCA protected against sulfide-ore mining. No matter what the federal government does, the State can be the backstop. No Minnesota mine can go forward without a permit signed by the DNR Commissioner. Working with the Walz administration and our State legislature are huge opportunities to win this protection. She urged us all to share our concerns with our relatives and friends, asking them to tell their politicians not to accept degradation of our environmental standards. Those concerned about this issue and wanting to get more involved can contact Save the Boundary Waters <https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org> to join in the cause. Our Chapter presented Ms. Lyons a check for \$1,000 made out to Save the Boundary Waters to further their work.

Reported by Tim Johnson

Chapter House Improvements

Stay tuned for announcements by email of a fall cleanup day once most of the leaves have fallen. This work will include stacking of firewood in the shed and buckthorn pulling.

We're lucky to have a landscape architect in the person of **Josh Wildt** on the Board. Josh has already filled in some eroded areas on the east side of the Chapter House. Also in the works in the spring are plans to deal with the ongoing collapse of our riverbank from all the runoff during heavy rainfall pouring directly from the driveway down the sidewalk and down the riverbank steps rain-garden.

Karen Ostenso has proposed brightening up the older portion of the building by painting the ceiling to repair some damage.

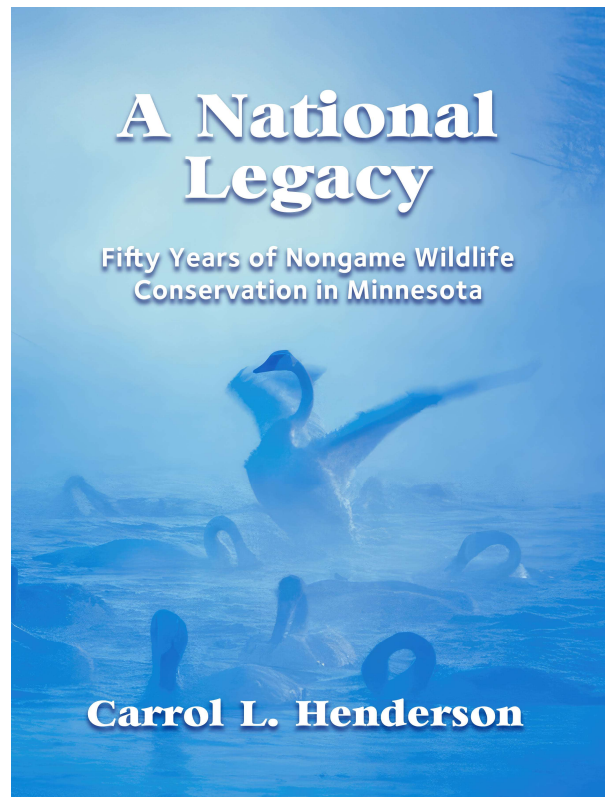
Chapter House Rental Rates*

Current Members who are in good standing only
(damage deposit: \$200.00; \$100 for previous renters)
Monday through
Thursday.....\$150.00
Friday, Saturday, Sunday &
Holidays.....\$200.00
Scouts: (damage deposit \$50.00)
Overnights.....\$50.00

*Rates and terms subject to change without notice; please contact the Chapter for special circumstances.

The Rental Agreement and Renters Checkout List are available on our website.

For availability, please contact Tim Johnson by email johns860@mac.com



Holiday Party Speaker

We are pleased to have Carrol Henderson present his program at our annual holiday party on Sunday, January 18, 2026 and have books available for purchase.

Carrol's new book will be coming out soon with 19 chapters describing over fifty years of Minnesota conservation efforts on behalf of wildlife ranging from bald eagles, peregrine falcons, loons, sandhill cranes, and trumpeter swans to bluebirds, hummingbirds, river otters, Canada lynx, wood turtles, and timber rattlesnakes.

However, this book is not just about historical wildlife conservation accounts. It includes a vision for future conservation projects. There are "life lessons," or strategies, that he learned from his 44-year employment with the DNR and in working with our many Minnesota conservation partners. He incorporated those strategies into planning and implementing those wildlife conservation efforts.

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
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.



Thanks to Larry Kennebeck

Sandhill Cranes coming in at night to roost in shallow water.

During the day they fly to fields to find food.

About 15,000 are now at Crex Meadows, more at other locations, during migration.