



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League June 2017

www.breckenridgeikes.org



June

- 13 **Board of Directors Meeting 7:00**
27 **Social/Educational Meeting 730**
**Don Arnosti, Conservation Program
Director for the MN Division IWLA**

Don will speak on "Minnesota's Environment under Siege, and Effective Conservation Advocacy in Our Era". Don has for 30 years been involved in Minnesota conservation advocacy on behalf of several organizations and their membership. This includes a total of 14 years as Audubon State Director and Policy Director, and for the past three years as Conservation Program Director for the Izaak Walton League. Don has experience in forest, wetland, agriculture, clean water, wildlife and grassland policy and issues. He and his wife, Meg have raised three children to love their Earth, starting perhaps with the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

This program co-sponsored by Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. The public is also invited to join us for this joint social/educational meeting of the Izaak Walton League on Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. For more information call 763-421-6781.

July

- 11 **Board of Directors Meeting**
25 **Social/Educational meeting**

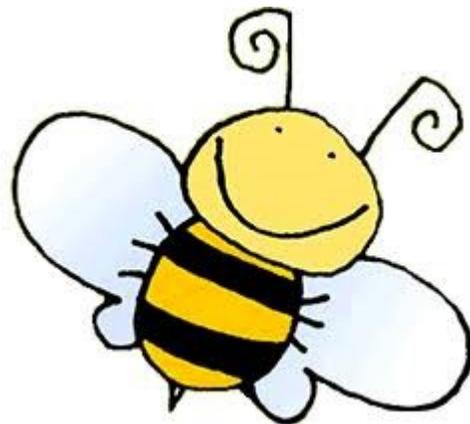
August

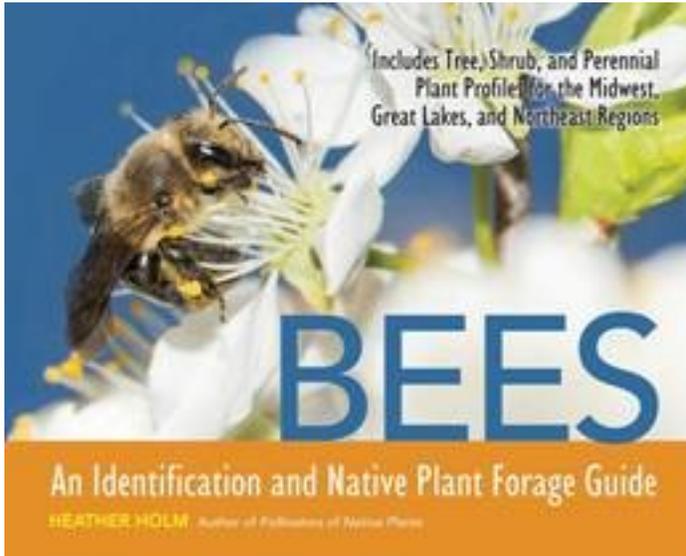
- 08 **Board ;Meeting 7:00**
22 **Social/Educational meeting 7:30**

About the W. J. Breckenridge Chapter

The Chapter was founded on the banks of the Mississippi just north of Minneapolis in 1932. Its first significant undertaking was halting a drainage project along the river. The Chapter House was built largely by volunteers four years later. Its fireplace contains stones from each of the 48 states in the Union at that time. The entire four acres around the chapter house remain in a natural state. In 1996 the name of the chapter was changed to the "Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter." The Chapter House building and grounds are recognized as historically significant to the area. The Breckenridge Chapter purchased the island behind the chapter house from the University of Minnesota for \$100.

OUR HOUSE IS FOR RENT Check out our reasonable rates at <http://www.breckenridgeikes.org/rentals.html> For availability, please contact Tim Johnson by calling the Chapter House at 763-561-5364 (and leave a message.)





Bee expert Heather Holm, a landscape designer and consultant specializing in native landscapes, presented an excellent program on May, 23 on “Native Bees of Minnesota” and their role in the pollination of native plants. She autographed copies of her new book, “Bees –an identification and native plant forage guide”. See her [website](#) . It had to be one of the best presentations in awhile as long time and very senior member Hans Nielsen’s head was not noted to be nodding even near the end of the talk.

Heather imparted to us a synopsis of her book illustrated by fantastic photographs she has taken of many genera. Can you imagine the patience she must have to set up and wait for those perfect close up shots? She reminded us all that very few of us who have been stung by hymenoptera species can blame a bee. In most cases the culprits are wasps (yellow jackets), not bees. Ninety percent of bees have a solitary lifestyle, so with no hive to protect they are not aggressive.

Seventy percent of bee species nest below ground in burrows that most of us are completely oblivious to. These bees are able to waterproof the brood cells to minimize the growth of mold. Many of the others nest in the pithy hollow of wildflower stalks. If you have some habitat that produces these stalks, Heather says we should not cut them to the ground but instead, break them off to allow the bees to enter no lower than knee high.

After introducing us to six of the bee families (including cleptoparasitic cuckoo bees) and a few of the 3,500 species found in North America, Heather talked of the bee’s diet and mentioned how many of them leave scent marks which other bees can detect and thus not waste a visit to a depleted flower.

A good portion of the talk and her book deals with the anthropocene challenges bees face. Habitat loss and fragmentation of the landscape, pesticides, introduced alien competitors and climate change are pushing some to the brink of extinction, including the rusty patched bumblebee of Minnesota which was recently added to the endangered list. Many native plants depend on specialist native bees for pollination and are themselves at risk if we lose the bees.

Even without these challenges, bees have many natural enemies. Birds, dragonflies, and robber flies can catch bees while flying or at flowers. Bee wolves (predatory wasps) hunt bees near flowers and sting them and bring them back to their underground nests as food for their larvae. Some beetles wait on flowers in larval form and hitch a ride back to the bee’s nest to prey on the larvae.

Introduced honey bees are also a problem for our natives. Pathogen spillover from these hives in the form of a fungus is harming bumblebees. For this reason and also for the competition honey bees present to our natives, Heather frowns upon hobby farming of honey bee hives. In fact, she advocates that some farmers (blueberry farms for instance) forego commercial honey bees for pollination and instead, practice native bee habitat conservation around their plots and rely on them to do the job for free.

If you feel you would like to do your part to help our native bees survive, you will be able to find all the information on the kind of plants they need in their habitat in her very interesting and readable book.

Reported by Tim Johnson.



And the 2017-18 Scholarship winners are:



. David Hainlen is new for this year, and the others are repeats. From left to right in the group photo are Emily Nagel, Sophia Vrba, David Hainlen, Kayla Barry, and Kathryn Brueckman.

Upcoming Events

In observance of World Oceans Day:

Wednesday, June 7, 7 pm Maple Grove Library, see the film *A Sea Change: Imagine a World without Fish* about the problem of ocean acidification sponsored by NW Metro Climate Action

Thursday, June 8, 7 pm Coon Rapids Civic Center, hear a presentation about ocean acidification by University of St. Thomas geology professor Kevin Theisen; sponsored by Anoka Area Climate Action

In observance of World Refugee Day

Wednesday, June 21, 7 pm, Plymouth Library, see the film *Climate Refugees* sponsored by Anoka Area Climate Action

And, finally the next leadership team meetings for the two groups are:

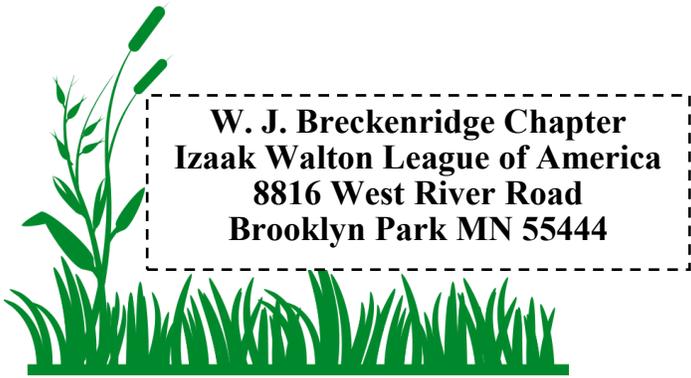
Tuesday, June 13, 7 pm

Northwest Metro Climate Action planning team at Lunds & Byerlys in Plymouth

Tuesday June 6, 10 am

Anoka Area Climate Action planning team at Rum River Library in Anoka

Anyone from the NW metro area or Anoka County is welcome to come and help plan future activities of these groups.



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
Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: EditorBreckIWL@msn.com
Deadline is the last day of each month.
“All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position
of the Breckenridge Board of directors.”

If you would like to
receive this newsletter
electronically, please contact
Barb Franklin at
763-657-1907

If you can provide light
refreshments for one of our
Tuesday meetings, please
contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com
June 27 Audubon Society
Thank you



Our Chapter House is for rent

Chapter House Rental Rates*
Non-Members: (damage deposit: \$300.00;
\$200 for previous renters)
Monday through Thursday \$275.00 Friday,
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays....\$350.00
Members: (damage deposit \$100.00)
Monday through Thursday\$125.00
Friday, Saturday Sunday & Holidays...
\$175.00

Boy Scouts: (damage deposit \$50.00)
Overnights.....\$50.00
*Rates and terms subject to change without
notice; please contact the Chapter for special
circumstances.

Rental Chairperson: Tim Johnson (leave
messages at 763-561-5364)