



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League

July/August 2011

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Coming Events

August

- 6 Sprucing up the rain garden
9am to noon
- 9 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Laura Van Riper,
**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF
INVASIVE SPECIES**

September

- 13 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

October

- 11 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

Laura Van Riper, BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES August 23, 2011 7:30 pm

Laura Van Riper is the terrestrial invasive species coordinator for the Ecological and Water Resources Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Laura started at the DNR in March 2010. Previously, Laura earned a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation research focused on the effects of yellow sweet clover invasion at Badlands National Park, South Dakota and its impacts on soils and native and nonnative species. Recently, Laura spent 4 years working as a research associate at the U of M studying garlic mustard invasion in Minnesota forests. Over her career, Laura has enjoyed working in the prairies and forests of Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota.

If you would like to receive
Timberlines by email, please
contact Barb Franklin at 763-657-
1907 or breckcal@yahoo.com.

OBSERVATION:

Wood Duck Welfare

Wood Ducks ordinarily abound on our Mill Pond property in Champlin for the last 46 years in spring, late summer and especially fall till just before the freeze up in October. This year has been different, at least until now.

Spring started out as usual with 12 to 30 Wood Ducks feeding on corn we throw out daily. Usually about 4 -6 houses of our 12 are occupied by hens and 3 or 4 are generally successful.

We obliged a family of Great Horned Owls this spring in a large oak tree next to our garage. Within 2 weeks of our ordinary Wood Duck visits we noticed the group slowly diminished and for 2 months we have seen only one hen in the yard.

During this last week we observed a hen with five young (1/3 grown) out in the pond. Today (July 31) we see her with only three young. This brings me to a possible conclusion not shared by many conservationists: If a hen has a theoretical brood of approximately 12 and the brood diminishes by $\frac{3}{4}$ by natural predation before they can fly and may lose one more before hunting season possibly reducing to two, then what? It is possible and even probable the three remaining family (including the hen) will be exposed to hunter predation in October. Will any of the remaining 3 make it South?

No wonder duck populations are often considered at low ebb. The acorn season is starting and between that and our feeding of corn we generally expect Woodies in fall to gather here from 40 to 60 daily.

The example I have observed and speculate toward a conclusion is probably extreme. However, the hunter speculation part is possibly more accurate.

Dick Brown

OPINION:

“The End of Conservation As We Know It

Dennis Anderson’s column July 31, 2011 in the *Star Tribune* on “The End of Conservation As We Know It” acknowledges what many Environmentalists, Conservationists and Preservationists have known for some time.

One problem: many people who enjoy passive outdoor experiences and hunting & fishing have taken past accomplishments for granted and have not joined many or any of the abundance of conservation groups that advocate for sound, all around conservation environmental policy. Dennis Anderson is right. Many people don’t care and many who enjoy the fruits of past achievements of environmental conservation groups take advantage of the dedicated work of the past without contributing to continue efforts.

People need to wake up and ask not what the environment can do for you, but what can you do for the future of the environment. Don’t be afraid to be a joiner. Advocate and back it up with donations. With the seemingly incurable and detrimental increase to our Nation’s population, conservationists must be more adamantly active than ever before.

Dick Brown

Lead Resolution Passed by Izaak Walton League National Convention

Des Moines, Iowa, July 15, 2011

2011 Resolution: Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle Lead is a highly toxic metal that in very small quantities can have a range of detrimental effects on humans, public health, and fish and wildlife. The ingestion of lead from ammunition (shot and bullet projectiles) or fishing tackle (lures and weights) has been documented and can cause mortality in several bird species.

The impact of lead on wildlife has been most extensively studied in birds with particular focus on doves, loons, and condors, eagles and other scavenging birds. It is believed that loons ingest small lead fishing tackle when naturally consuming small pebbles for digestive grit. Geese and ducks consume spent lead shot and/or tackle in similar ways in the water and while foraging on the ground. Condors and other scavenging birds have been exposed most commonly when feeding on entrails and other remains of game animals which contain lead fragments.

However, ammunition and tackle manufacturers and their trade associations argue that scientific evidence does not document population-level impacts of lead ingestion on wildlife.

There are a number of federal and state policies that restrict the use of certain lead ammunition and fishing tackle. For example, since 1991, only non-toxic shot can be used to hunt waterfowl nationwide. To date, six states prohibit the use or sale of lead weights and sinkers in some all or all waters in those states.

Alternatives to lead fishing tackle and ammunition are becoming more available in the market. However, alternatives are currently not available for every form of tackle or in every caliber or gauge of ammunition and generally cost more than their lead counterparts.

Chapter IX of the IWLA policies proclaim, "because of the serious problem of lead shot poisoning of waterfowl and secondary poisoning of bald eagles, the League has supported a phased conversion to nontoxic shot for hunting migratory waterfowl. Similarly, the League encourages the use of nontoxic fishing weights in areas where lead can cause a problem."

Therefore, be it resolved that the Izaak Walton League of America, assembled in convention in Des Moines, Iowa, July 15, 2011, because of the toxicity of some forms of lead and its potential impact on wildlife, encourages:

- The use of non-toxic ammunition and fishing lures and weights in areas where lead is demonstrated to be a problem.
- Manufacturers of ammunition and fishing tackle to develop environmentally-friendly and cost-effective alternatives to lead projectiles and fishing lures and weights.
- Users of these products to take advantage of these alternatives as they become available.



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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.”

Sprucing Up the Rain Garden

The rain garden has done a great job of keeping the run off from our grounds from reaching the river. Even the during the heaviest rains almost all the water is retained. The frequent rains, however, have helped some of our weeds to prosper.

On **Saturday, August 6** we'll take some time to pull some weeds, spread some wood chips and perhaps split and replant some of our more rapidly spreading plants. We'll be at the Chapter House from 9 am to noon. We'll have some tools to share but you might want to bring a digging tool or a wheelbarrow if you have them. Come for an hour or more. If you have questions call Jim Arnold (763 560 8972).

