



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
January/February 2022
www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

February 2022

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 MN Valley Chapter program 6:30 pm
Fires past and fire's future
in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
Wilderness (see p. 6)

March 2022

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 No Social/Educational Meeting

Welcome New Members

Matthew Qvale, Golden Valley
Dianne Fisher, Brooklyn Park
Matt Sturgeon, Brooklyn Park

Board of Directors Meetings

Summary:

December 14 and January 11

- Social Educational gatherings curtailed due high Covid 19 Delta variant transmission in the community. Website indicates that in person meetings have been postponed until further notice.
- Tim has a list of future speakers to contact – Tyler Winter first on list when meetings reconvene.
- Barb has posted rental information on Next Door additional photos of venue available for rental to be added to Facebook to inform benefits of becoming new members.
- Membership Dues Recipient: Karen will mail a second mailing at the end of December to members who have not responded.

MN Division Annual Meeting

Our Minnesota Division of the IWLA held their annual meeting virtually on Jan 30, 2022. As is usually the case, there was more business than time to deal with it all. Our Chapter's resolution on "Rough Fish" was adopted with slightly amended wording (see below) and will be presented to the House committee which is hearing HF 2764 "Rough fish designations evaluation report required."

Many other great resolutions were also passed and should be available to view soon on the Division website. Our Minnesota Division incumbent President, John Rust, and Treasurer, Jill Crafton, were reelected to two year terms. Our W. J. Breckenridge Chapter had five voting delegates present (Larry Kennebeck, Tim Johnson, Tyler Winter, Jim Arnold and Peter Sorenson).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League (MN IWLA) in Convention on January 30, 2022, promotes and supports the adoption of Minnesota fishing regulations to sustainably manage **all** native fish, including fish that are legally designated as native "rough fish." These regulations should address, but not be limited to, the following for "rough fish" species: educating the public on the ecological value (including their role as a prey species) and identification of native "rough fish" species, establishing fishing bag limits, clarification of protection for "listed" species, establishing and enforcing wanton waste laws, eliminating the term "rough fish" from state statutes and rules, and other legal requirements.



In Memory of Darby Nelson

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA has always been proud of the fact Darby Nelson has been a member for 20 years since 2002. We have had several notable conservationists in our Chapter and realized he was one of the best.

The Minneapolis *Star Tribune* ran articles in both the Obituaries (1/16/22) and in the Outdoor Section (1/21/22) that noted the many contributions and important innovations that Darby instilled into the health of our natural heritage; mostly through legislation and teaching of college students. His two great books give us an eye into the history, the decadence and hope yet to possibly improve our waterways. These books *For Love of Lakes* and *For Love of a River: The Minnesota* are still available from his long-time partner in life, Geri Nelson.

Darby has long supported the Breckenridge Ikes on local issues. The preservation of a 6-acre parcel of ancient Oaks in Brooklyn Park on the West side of Jefferson Highway between 101 and 109th Ave. N. in Brooklyn Park is still pending, but he served with the group that initiated this effort. The group approached Three Rivers Park to see if they would amalgamate the parcel into their system and we are still involved with the City of Brooklyn Park on this issue.

Darby also spent many years on the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Committee and he and Geri made frequent contributions to the scholarship fund.

Darby was part of the Emery Oak Preservation group (led by Ikes) which encouraged the City of Champlin to preserve what is considered the oldest tree in the city. We prevailed.

Darby and Geri were in our small Ikes group to protest an infringement on part of Champlin's Galloway Park prairie area. A Golf Frisbee course was planned right through the center of the natural prairie. As a result, the course was altered, and the city planted a new three acre natural prairie nearby.

Darby helped survey an area North of 117th Ave, in Champlin adjacent to E. side of 169 in order to identify all the large trees therein to help the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance to save as many of these great trees as possible. The property is now under development, but we see several of the old trees remain.

Although Darby was not considered a "genuine" hunter he told a story about his one-time Moose hunt. Three friends talked Darby into a Moose hunt. The permit only allowed one Moose for the four of them. With Darby's inexperience as a hunter the group was surprised when Darby shot their only allowed Moose!

The Breckenridge Chapter members will miss Darby's presence as he had many lessons to teach us yet about our declining eco-system and ways to improve it.

Sincere condolences to Geri and her family. We hope she carries on with their combined efforts to improve the viability of our natural Heritage.

Breckenridge Chapter Board of Directors

Trumpeter Swans in our Backyard



Trumpeter swans foraging and resting just below the Coon Rapids Dam on Jan 15, 2022

Have you noticed more swans along the Mississippi River in the north metro than in previous years? If you have, then you are in agreement with staff at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and other observers. The Trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) need around 100 yards of open water for their takeoffs so this time of year when most of the river near us is frozen over, the options for them are limited. One of the places that provides the amount of open water for takeoff and a little foraging is just below the Coon Rapids Dam.

It used to be that to the north until 2020, as many as 3,000 swans congregated during the winter just downstream of the warm water discharge (raising the river temperature from the upstream 35° to downstream 75°F) from the nuclear power plant in Monticello. The Mississippi reliably (except for brief partial freeze overs) stayed open for several miles south of the plant. [Sheila Lawrence started artificial feeding of the swans](#) in the mid 1980's to

help the species as it was being reintroduced in Minnesota.

This once abundant bird had been virtually extirpated by European immigrants across the contiguous 48 states by the 1800s. This was partly due to unregulated hunting for their valued skins (powder puffs for makeup) and feathers (writing quills and down for clothing). Though the adult meat was considered very tough, the cygnets were very good eating so hunting for meat and sport also contributed to their decline. In 1935 only 69 swans were known to exist in the contiguous states. Then, in the 1960's, starting with Hennepin County parks and later with the DNR, [the birds were reintroduced](#) to our State. Programs in other states followed.

Two years ago, the town of Monticello decided to end the artificial feeding of the swans. The thinking was to ensure that the birds stay wild. By ending the feeding, this one tenth of the Minnesota population

of 30,000 or more birds would be forced to forage naturally and begin to apply their migration instincts. This decision may be why we are now seeing more swans south of the Rum River confluence and below the Coon Rapids Dam near our Breckenridge Chapter House. Our Christmas Bird Count for the North Minneapolis circle found over one hundred Trumpeter Swans in the last couple of years. That is about ten times as many as in previous years. This January there are still over one hundred swans to be seen at a time at Swan Park in Monticello even without the artificial feeding. There is a [Swan Cam set up there](#) where you can watch them 24/7.

So where are the rest of the swans? According to the Minnesota DNR, “little is known about trumpeter swan ecology, migration, mortality risks, and habitat use.” Accordingly, work is underway to study the species by [fitting them with GPS-GSM transmitter collars](#). Certainly, there cannot be enough reliable open water with adequate forage to keep many swans in our immediate area all winter, every year. It is thought that most of our swans migrate to southern Minnesota or Iowa and may be gradually extending their migration even more to the south as they must have done historically. It is hoped that with the results of this new study, not only will wildlife managers be able to know where the birds go, but also, they will be able to learn if the big causes of mortality are still human based (lead poisoning from toxic shot and fishing tackle,

collisions with power-lines and other man-made objects, and illegal shooting). Our State Division of the Izaak Walton League of America signed on to a petition to the DNR to ban toxic ammo and fishing tackle. [The DNR denied the petition](#) just a few weeks ago, even while agreeing to require non-toxic ammo in Scientific and Natural Areas and in State Parks for specific hunts. It will take a long time for the lead we Americans have already deposited in our wetlands to no longer have a significant affect on swan mortality. Just three years ago, [ten swans died from lead poisoning in Vadnais Heights](#), a northern metro suburb. The DNR estimates that 40% of trumpeter swan deaths are due to lead ingestion.

Please let your Governor and State legislators know that you support a ban on lead ammo and tackle to save the swans, loons, eagles and other birds from suffering tremendously while they slowly die from lead poisoning. Once the pandemic passes, we plan to have a lead collection container at the Chapter House for you to deposit all the lead you have cleaned out of your tackle boxes.

Reported by Tim Johnson



Thanks, Jerry!

Jerry Steele determined that the problematic outside lights at the Chapter House were defective and has ordered new fixtures to replace the dusk to dawn photo cell fixtures. He will install them when they arrive, about February 7! Thank you, Jerry!

A thank you from Dick Brown

The article in the *Timberlines* Nov/Dec 2021 by Tim Johnson left me not only flattered but quite emotional. Tim called me one day to see if we could meet so he could accumulate some Chapter history I might remember. We sat across our dinette table. Tim has a laptop computer open, and I thought he was taking a few notes to the questions he offered. Little did I realize he had a microphone recorder there. I am not very knowledgeable about such devices.

Upon reading the *Timberlines* article we discovered two mistakes: my son, Steve, was married to the daughter of the manager of Bob Evan's Gift Shop in Osseo who was responsible for funneling the surplus gifts (that did not sell) our way for our Garage Sales we used as a fund raiser. She and her husband were active members at the Breck Chapter for several years.

The other was not a mistake but an omission: Whatever I did for the Ikes, whether the Breck Chapter or Division was always backed up, aided, and sometimes suggested by my wife, Vera. Vera was several times a delegate to the State Convention, as well as a Director from the Breck Chapter at State Div. meetings. She was on the Board for the MN Div. Scholarship Committee. For the Chapter, she was Treasurer 2 times, Secretary for 2 times, Membership Chair for about 5 years, and sat on the Board for several years. She was one of the prime movers of our "early" Pancake Breakfasts and garage sales. Any items in print with my name on it has always been typed and edited by Vera.

I mention this to our Board because without Vera my contributions would have been slight. Thanks to Tim for his great article. How could it not make me feel good?

Dick



Grace of the Turk

The Turkey in the poem has been with us 3 summers and now into the third winter. She is entirely alone. I thought it worth commemorating.
Dick Brown – January 2022

She strides across the strand
With dignity and grace
As though she were the Queen
Of every wild Race.

The ground is white with snow
And her stride is even measured
Till she Frolics on the go.
And to us this scene is treasured.

Her name is "Turkalina"
And has the run of our whole place.
(With a little smirk,) we just call her Turk.
She fits her real name with grace.

Twice a day she comes to eat,
But she never lets me know
That it's I who gives the treat.
She keeps her dignity just so!

At night she picks a spot
High up in a tree.
"Predators will not have a shot
At getting me"

She's been dislodged from her tribe
But seems not to raise a vibe
Of concern of being lonesome.

Perhaps it's a vacation
From tribal regulation
And resulting consternation

She seems a lonely soul
Who really has no goal
But to stay alive.

And when she "hits the dust",
As every creature must,
We will remember her
As though she's still robust.
Yes, we will remember her
And wish she's still with us.

Fires past and fire's future in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

The Minnesota Valley Chapter hosts this online meeting:

6:30pm - Tuesday February 22, 2022

Evan Larson, Lane Johnson, Kurt Kipfmüller

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82140653201>

Meeting ID: 821 4065 3201



The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was among the first landscapes protected under the 1964 Federal Wilderness Act and played a key role in the development of the field of fire ecology through the foundational work of Miron “Bud” Heinselman. Heinselman applied the concept of a shifting forest mosaic created by large, high-severity fires that fundamentally shaped understanding of northern forest fire regimes and successional dynamics. A new 500-year record of tree-ring-based fire history, contextualized with historical, archaeological, and traditional ecological knowledge, adds nuance to the work of Heinselman by describing a surface fire component to the BWCAW fire regime. Patterns of fire activity, fire–climate relationships, and forest development indicate Indigenous Fire Stewardship increased rates of local surface fire and influenced forest development. Ironically, the open grown stands of red pine that played an important role in justifying wilderness designation were likely the product of an anthropogenic fire regime and will diminish in the absence of human-augmented ignition frequencies in the future. Our findings highlight tension within the notion of wilderness as “untrammelled” and identify an opportunity for co-management among federal and tribal groups to re-

engage with traditional cultural practices to maintain the wilderness character of the BWCAW.

Co-Presenters:

Evan Larson, Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Lane Johnson, Research Forester with the University of Minnesota-Cloquet Forestry Center

Kurt Kipfmüller, Associate Professor of Geography, Environment & Society at the University of Minnesota

A Note from the Editor:

Due to the uncertainty of our current situation we have decided to combine upcoming issues of *Timberlines* and publish every other month for the time being. The March/April issue will come out at the beginning of April with a submission deadline of March 31. Schedule changes for upcoming programs and activities will be posted on our website [www.breckenridgeikes.org] and on Facebook [Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, IWLA].

Opinion: Environmental improvement on Champlin Mill Pond

The week of Oct. 22, 2021, the Champlin Mill Pond is experiencing another draw-down. It is the umpteenth time we have witnessed a draw-down in the last 76 years.

Early on the reasons were feuding between residents on the upper pond who were gardening in some low areas and residents around the pond and at large who were more interested in fishing and other environmental and aesthetic reasons. Some years in the 1980s and 90s the pond was drained a few times during winter as an experiment to kill abundant weed growth by freezing. The weeds were only marginally affected.

There were a couple of times during the 70s and 80s when the pond was lowered somewhat so the DNR could net the Lower Pond to reduce the population of Carp. I remember two large DNR trucks with water tanks parked on West River Road which received the netted fish. Some say the fish were sent to Chicago where ethnic groups enjoyed eating Carp.

Recently the draw-down was for a new Dam, then again for dredging to eliminate some of the weeds, muck and shallows. Then again to build a pedestrian bridge on the West side of 169.

The present draw-down is to improve an island that was built during the last draw-down in the upper Pond. This island was planted with young trees. However, someone forgot what the final level of the Pond would be and the island was submerged, killing all the trees. So now the island surface will be raised to above the surface of the Pond and new vegetation will be planted, completion to be in December.

The DNR stocked the pond with several types of fish with the idea the Pond will be a fishing haven. I

do not know how that is turning out, however there seems to be a decrease in waterfowl, especially Wood Ducks because of increased human usage, especially canoeing and kayaking.

When dredging was performed, I wonder if turtles were dredged along with the muck, sand and weeds. Before the dredging there were many turtles, some were large Snappers. I have not seen one since. They and Box Turtles used to sun themselves on logs at our shoreline. I do not know if the DNR stocks Reptiles. Would it be legal for private parties to do so?

With all the money spent on the new dam, dredging, pedestrian bridge and island building, has there been environmental improvement? Perhaps visual and esthetic improvement mostly for the benefit of humans.

Dick Brown

From our Facebook page post on December 10:

It seems the MN DNR has learned nothing from failing to control carp over the last 130 years. They are in the final stages of a rehabilitation project on Lake Wakanda which aims to remove rough fish” including bigmouth buffalo, block access of “rough fish” to the lake and stock “game fish”. Yet, there is no scientific support for dividing fish into “game” and “rough” categories. The DNR claims to use “ecosystem based management.” How can you have ecosystem based management when you are trying to eliminate and block half the ecosystem! They could so easily re-introduce the buffalo, and other native non-game fish. A robust and diverse fish population will actually be more resistant to aquatic invasive species.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/.../continued-habitat...>

Tyler Winter

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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 last 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.

Larry Kennebeck's Gallery

Beavers love the taste of Black Cherry tree bark – they ate a lot of it off this tree.



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)