



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
August 2021

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2021

- 3 National Night Out
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social/Educational Meeting:
Rough Fish Conservation:
Tyler Winter
7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting:
TBD 7:30 pm



Social/Educational Meeting
August 24, 7:30 pm
Tyler Winter:
Rough Fish Conservation

Chapter Seeks New Membership Chair

After seven years of service Mary Ellen Vetter is resigning as our Membership Chair. We are now looking for someone willing to take on that role.

The job consists of processing our member's renewals in November for 2022 and is done in your home. The Chair also assists the board members to increase membership.

For more information please call Mary Ellen at 763 561-1761

“Rough fish conservation” is an oxymoron. But why is that? Native non-game fish play an important part in the ecosystem. Please join us for a presentation on Minnesota's native fish, their history and why they deserve protection. Tyler Winter is an angler, conservationist, and environmental scientist. After getting a biology degree at University of Minnesota Duluth, he volunteered with the MN DNR to do fish surveys. Later he became an Environmental Scientist with the Metropolitan Council's Water Resources group. Now his day job is water quality monitoring of our region's large rivers. Someday he hopes to catch every fish species in Minnesota but has only caught 50 to date. He is constantly trying to raise awareness about native fish so everyone can enjoy them as much as he does.

Ikes Given Opportunity to Monitor Water Quality in our Neighborhood



The flat land around Brooklyn Park was once dotted with wetlands which purified the water. Previous generations of settlers ditched and drained many of them for agriculture or development and more recent generations continued the onslaught until “no net loss of wetlands” became our federal policy. The policy change was in late recognition of the many ecosystem services wetlands provide such as;

1. Flood control
2. Groundwater replenishment
3. Shoreline stabilization & storm protection
4. Sediment & nutrient retention
5. Water purification
6. Reservoirs of biodiversity
7. Climate change mitigation

We and our fellow citizens continue to have negative impacts on wetlands and we have a responsibility to clean up those that remain. To that end, monitoring the health of the remaining wetlands is a necessary step. In our neighborhood we look just a few steps to the south where Mattson Brook (really a ditched and culverted channel draining the developed Edinbrook neighborhood) empties into the Mississippi river along the backyard of some Breckenridge Chapter friends. It is basically dry now, having lost the feeder wetlands that would retain at least some water in a drought.

But to our north there is still a trickle (even in this severe drought, maybe a cubic foot or two per minute) of water draining the wetlands of the

Environmental Nature Area across W. River Road from Mississippi Gateway Regional Park. Environmental engineers in the form of beavers are constantly at work creating and maintaining the last of the series of wetlands before the waters empty into the Mississippi River. Their dams relocate the wetland every few years.

The current pool was created by a new dam around 2018 but the beaver lodge already looks unused. Almost all of their preferred trees have been felled. The remains of a dead beaver can be seen on the shore. Not to worry that the pond would go to waste, a river otter family has taken up residence there this summer. The otters are known to travel many miles daily and no doubt they must reach the channels of the Mississippi that are not dry yet. There they can still find all the fish and clams they need to eat.

Our invitation to join Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) in monitoring this drainage's final wetland was extended to us just as the Covid restrictions were eased (all of last year's monitoring was restricted to same household units). We met the WHEP volunteers (some very knowledgeable in macroinvertebrate and vegetation taxonomy) Sunday morning and learned a lot while we helped. The family of river otters kept a close eye on us as we worked. Ann Marie Journey provided all with freshly cleaned waders (sterilizing them between uses is a required chore) and dipnets. We brought our own PFDs and balancing sticks (old broom handles) to help keep us upright. The pond was hip deep in some places but with life jackets on we were safe even if we were to become mired in the muck (the volunteers have given themselves the moniker of "MuckStars"). Fortunately, no one tipped over.

The samples collected will be monitored in the lab later but we did find plenty of snails and water bugs. We left the otters and green herons in peace after two and a half hours of mucking about. It will be interesting to hear the final results from this site which the WHEP group was quite excited to monitor. Monitoring for "inverts" and "veg" is ideally done at two different times. The first would be early before the year's class of odonates (dragonflies can act as great bioindicators of water quality because they rely on high quality water for

proper development in early life) have emerged and the second later when vegetation is easier to identify. Both these times are now past so this type of monitoring is complete for the year. Maybe 2022 will be the year for you to volunteer in monitoring our wetlands.



Some things you can do to protect our wetlands:

1. Maintain a buffer strip of native plants along wetlands, streams and rivers.
2. Use outdoor salt, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly or preferably not at all.
3. Keep stormwater run-off clean by not blowing lawn clippings on the street.
4. Clean up pet's waste.

By Tim Johnson

National Night Out Event

By Wendy Steel

We had a good turnout of over 50 people for our National Night Out event, thanks in great extent to Laura Fuller's organizational help, and the beautiful weather which accommodated our outdoor activities. Most brought dishes to share, so there was plenty to eat. Wendy and Jerry Steel manned the bubble blowing activity – popular with kids and adults alike – and Jim and Judy Arnold managed the root beer float table.



Many of the people we spoke with were very interested about the activities that go on at the Izaak Walton League and some even expressed interest in coming to our Social/Educational meetings. We gave verbal invitations to everyone we spoke with.



The Brooklyn Park Police and Community service personnel showed up and passed out stickers to the children. We received contact information for Samantha Brown Hoyt (not present), Detective with the Mental Health Unit. Samantha would be the person to contact if ever we would want to report any homelessness or mental health crisis scenarios in our neighborhood.

Two people expressed strong interest in becoming members. Steve McIntosh uses the steps leading down to the river, and he spoke to Jerry, volunteering his help on projects, including helping to maintain the steps where a section of it needs some fill.



It was also a very wonderful community time talking with the Board members present about their various ideas, some of which will probably be brought up at our next board meeting. Thanks to all who participated.



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes July 13, 2021 (condensed)

In-person board meeting called to order with the following members present: Larry Kennebeck, Dick Brown, Tim Johnson, Barb Franklin, Wendy Steele, Karen Ostenso, Jim Arnold, Jerry Steele, Sue Schmidt, Dennis Leslie
Larry presided over the meeting in Steve's absence. IWL Membership pledge recited.

Social / Educational meetings (review):

July 27: Darby & Geri Nelson, preceded by introduction of scholarship recipients
Aug. 24: Tyler Winter – Fishing on the Mississippi River
Sept. 28: *TBD

Dick listed many potential speakers for the October meeting. Barb mentioned screening the Walter Breckenridge movie for September. Tim has a speaker for a "winter" date. Speaker fees were discussed – up to \$100 in general, if more, then board to discuss.

Dick moved/Wendy seconded to change November Social Educational meeting to the 3 Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Discussion/Vote/Motion passed. Newsletter will advertise change.

Elections: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected during our August Social/Educational meeting.

Current officers are:

President: Steve Schaust

Vice President: Larry Kennebeck

Treasurer: Sue Schmidt

Secretary: Wendy Steele

Karen will announce at the Social Educational meeting that we need people to fill positions and become active as committee members, officers, chairs, etc. There is a "CHAPTER MANUAL" in the closet describing positions, duties of officers, and so forth.

Membership committee: Jerry, Barb, Steve, Karen, others? We need a new Membership Chair to take over Mary Ellen's duties.

Safety Deposit Box: Jim and Karen will meet separately to discuss what documents stay on site and what goes into safe deposit box and will report back.

Policy Question: "Should we allow non-members to fish on our property?" Should we have a formal policy? Currently we allow it. Bush Lake Chapter requires membership to store and launch a canoe on their property. Maybe we could increase membership by adding fishing as a perk. Safety is always first & respect for nature. Discussion to be continued.

Bur Oak Grove project along Jefferson Highway "abandoned" but not forgotten – Tim will contact our City to see what current plans are. Forest has thick growth of impenetrable buckthorn. A group of Board members still plan to contact present owner, Church of St. Stephens, to urge them to plan for preservation of the grove.

Oxbow Park north arm prairie planting is not a priority for this year for the City of Champlin according to Sue.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds:

- Dick suggested establishing a Building Maintenance Committee & a separate Grounds & Woodlot Committee in place of the Building & Grounds Committee. This discussion and vote were tabled until President and all Board members are present.
- Four large Ash trees have been injected (at ½ cost of what was approved budget). Dead Elm in middle of driveway will need to be taken down.

Rentals: Summer bookings are above average. Holiday reservation are completely full.

Webmaster: Email notification will be sent to membership a few days before educational meetings. Agenda to be included.

Treasurer: Account totals still looking good and Sue is working to gain access to online statements.

Scholarship: Recipients of scholarship for this year will be introduced at July's social meeting.

With in-person meetings resuming, let me know if you'd like to bring treats for an upcoming date. The schedule is now posted on our website:
breckenridgeikes.org
Barbara Franklin
763-242-0432
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

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)

Breckenridge Chapter Membership Application:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Dues are subject to change. Please make check payable to: IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter Membership
 Dues: Individual: 71.50 Family: 99.00 Student: 43.00 Mail to: Mary Ellen Vetter 7715 York Lane N Brooklyn
 Park, MN 55443 Phone: 763-561-1761

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 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.

Limericks for our times *Thanks to Karen Ostenso*

There was a tall skinny young Ike
Who went for a ride on his bike.
Navigating a big hill,
He took a big spill.
So next time, he just took a hike.



YOU NEED TO UNMUTE!



Although we're all birds of a feather,
We weren't allowed to get together.
Covid caused us much gloom,
We survived using Zoom,
And now we need rainy weather.