



# Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
September/October 2012  
[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)



## Coming Events

### October

- 09 Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 23 Social/Ed meeting Clayton Daughenbaugh – UTAH RED ROCKS
- 27 Buckthorn removal party 9-5 or whenever you can work.

### November

- 03 Buckthorn removal party 9-5 or whenever you can work.
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Social/Ed meeting Stan Tequila, Author– Uncommon Facts about Common Birds

### December

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm
- 25 Merry Christmas

### January

- 15 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Holiday Party

## Buckthorn Removal Planned

### Here's the Plan

- WHERE: Breckenridge Chapter House  
WHEN: Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (join us for a few hours or the full day)  
WHAT: Pulling, cutting, hauling, applying herbicide and having fun improving the Chapter. More details on page 2.

If you can provide light refreshments for one of our Tuesday meetings, please contact Barbara Franklin 763-657-1907 Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

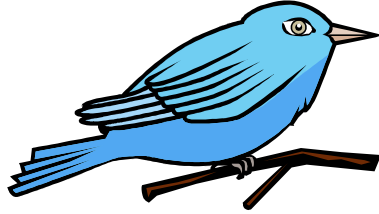
October 23 -  
November 27 -

Thank you



## BLUEBIRD TRAIL NOTES

The Breckenridge IWL maintains and monitors a



bluebird trail consisting of 12 nesting boxes in Oxbow Creek Park which is just east of Jackson Middle School in Champlin, MN. Oxbow Creek Park has two open prairie areas separated by a wooded area of mostly oaks and aspens. The bluebird trail is in the northern prairie area. Easiest access to the northern prairie area is to go south on Oxbow Trail from the West River Road until Oxbow Trail ends, which is about two blocks. There is a short paved trail that goes from the street between two houses into the open prairie area. It is necessary to park on the street.

The doors of the nesting boxes were closed in early March in anticipation of the return of the bluebirds. They are left open over winter to discourage occupation by mice and other small critters. Since the spring was very early and warm, a bluebird was already sitting on top of a nesting box when I returned for my first monitoring check on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The high temperature that day was already 79 degrees. The rest of the 2012 nesting season was long and hot.

Fledglings counts for the season were 3 chickadees, 14 bluebirds, and 21 tree swallows.

Early summer wildflowers were beautiful as usual but the drought took

## Buckthorn Removal Planned

By Jim Arnold

You may recall that many of us were able to put a big dent in the buckthorn population last fall. However, much remains to be eradicated. We're planning two weekends this fall to continue the removal.

Buckthorn is one of the most harmful invasive species in Minnesota. It crowds out native plant species and can be harmful to birds (acting as a laxative). It can be found at almost any location on the Chapter House grounds but is thickest in the first 100 feet near the River Road. We need a large group to attack this serious problem. Hopefully we'll have even more than the 17 folks who worked on the project last year. Please join us for a few hours or more on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and/or Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will pull and cut many of these destructive plants. Consider recruiting a friend to join us.

### Here's the Plan

WHERE: Breckenridge Chapter House  
WHEN: Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (join us for a few hours or the full day)

WHAT: Pulling, cutting, hauling, applying herbicide and having fun improving the Chapter.

Tools, herbicide and instruction for use will be available. If you bring your own digging or cutting tools please label them. Gloves are a must.

Coffee, pop and treats will be available. Please contact Jim Arnold at (763 560 8972) or [jjarnold@Q.com](mailto:jjarnold@Q.com) if you plan to attend or if you have questions

# Clean Energy, Climate, and Health

A series of public forums with polar explorer Will Steger and Fresh Energy's J. Drake Hamilton

**Minnesota is on a clean energy path that is bringing benefits to human health and our air, water, and natural resources.**

Hear Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to climate change, present his vivid, firsthand account with stunning photographs from his expeditions. J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director at Fresh Energy, will describe effective clean energy and clean air solutions that benefit our economy.



**free and open to the  
public**

November 8, 7:00PM Northwestern College/Bethel University, St. Paul

November 10, 7:00PM Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Baxter

November 11, 7:00PM Our Savior's Lutheran Church, New Ulm

November 13, 7:00PM Winona State University, Winona

November 26, 7:00PM Concordia College, Moorhead

November 29, 7:00PM John Marshall High School, Rochester

December 3, 7:00PM Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud

December 4, 7:00PM Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

For more information visit [www.fresh-energy.org/tag/events](http://www.fresh-energy.org/tag/events) or contact J. Drake Hamilton at [hamilton@fresh-energy.org](mailto:hamilton@fresh-energy.org) or 651.726.7562.



## **Neighbors Work for Water: Fall Community Clean Ups**

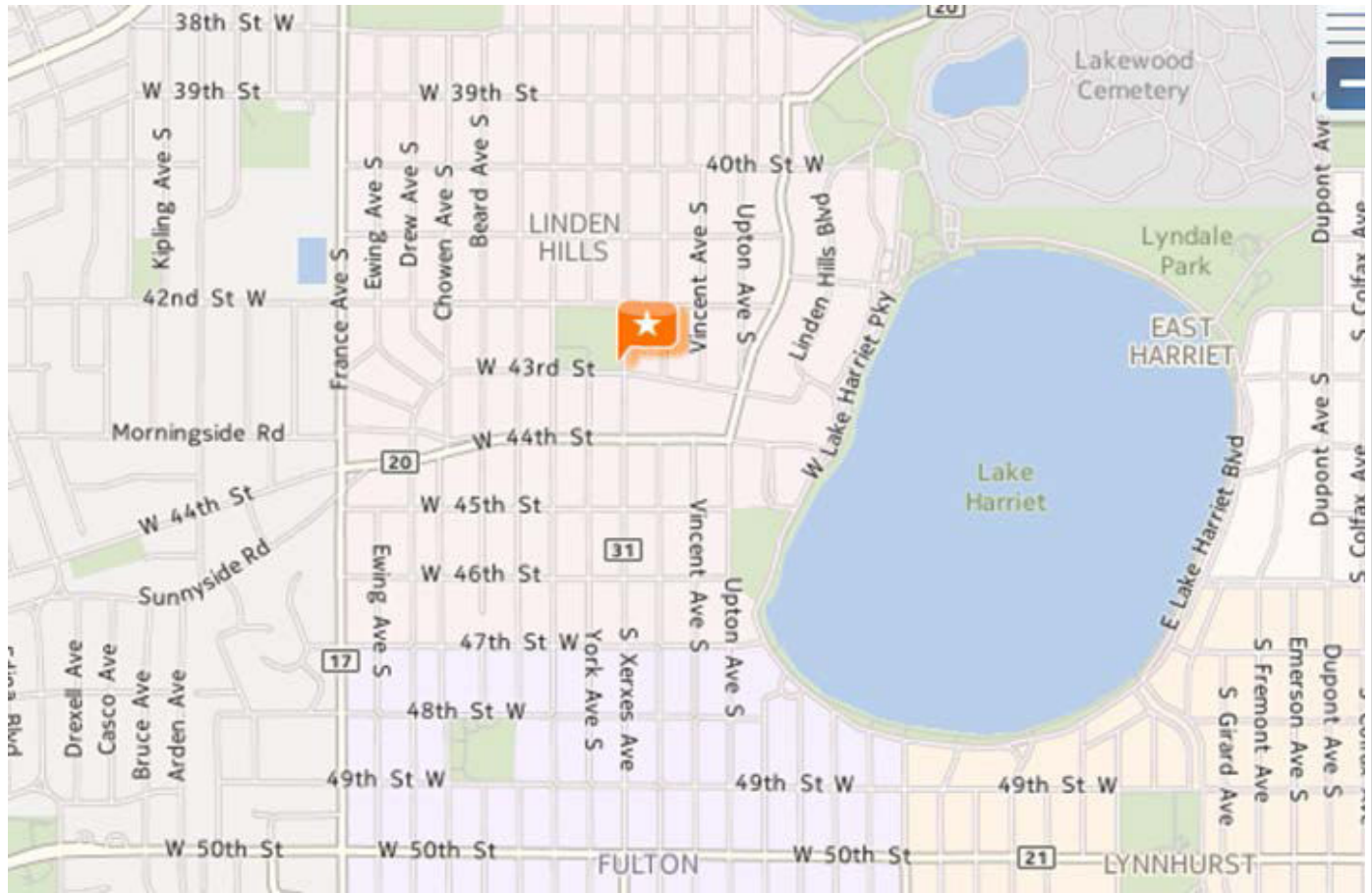
Join volunteers across the metro area this fall to rake up leaves out of your street and storm drains between Oct 13 and Nov 20.

Details for a clean-up near you:

Date: October 13, 2012

Time: 11 AM – 1 PM

Location: Linden Hills Recreation Center, 3100 West 43rd Street, Minneapolis



Contact Rose Ramsey at 612-616-0870 ([ramseyrosie@gmail.com](mailto:ramseyrosie@gmail.com)) for more information and to sign-up.

What's the matter with leaves? With roads and storm drains, people have created a funnel that dumps excessive leaves into creeks and lakes with each fall rain. Cleaning up our curbs and gutters will prevent the highly nutrient-rich leaves and debris from entering rivers, lakes and streams, reducing pollution at the source and improving water quality for local communities. You can fight water pollution in the streets near your home today.

Did you know that just five bags of leaves and organic debris from streets and sidewalks can contain one pound of phosphorus? Over time, this can lead to the growth of hundreds of pounds of algae. Phosphorus is the leading & most serious source of pollution for rivers & lakes causing large algae blooms which are a nuisance to boaters and swimmers and damage the lake environment for water plants and fish. Every lake in our metro area is affected by this problem!

## A Better Climate Dialogue Dell Erickson

“A Conversation on Climate Change” was presented by the Ike’s the evening of September 27<sup>th</sup> at Champlin Park High School.

The event was hosted by well known local meteorologist Paul Douglas. Presentations by Dr. Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota and Dr. John Abraham of the University of St. Thomas were given. About 100 people attended. This article expands on the topic and raises several issues that were discussed insufficiently or avoided. Other writers will explain the presentations.

First some background. The main human sources of greenhouse gases are the burning of fossil fuels and



agriculture (deforestation, livestock, rice farming, land use and wetland changes). Liquid fuels such as gasoline and fuel oil, contribute 36 %; solid fuels like coal, 35 %; and gaseous fuels like natural gas, 20 %.

Trends seen in the charts indicate it is very likely that increases in natural gas used to generate electricity is the reason the rate of increase in greenhouse emission has occurred in the last fifteen years, especially the last ten years.

The clearing of natural areas for croplands and pastures, and of forests in many tropical regions are primary drivers of CO<sup>2</sup> increases. It is clear from the world illustration that these are countries approaching or in ecological collapses that are destroying what natural regions remain. Of great interest, developed nations fare better with the U.S. one of the best –in terms of agriculture at least!

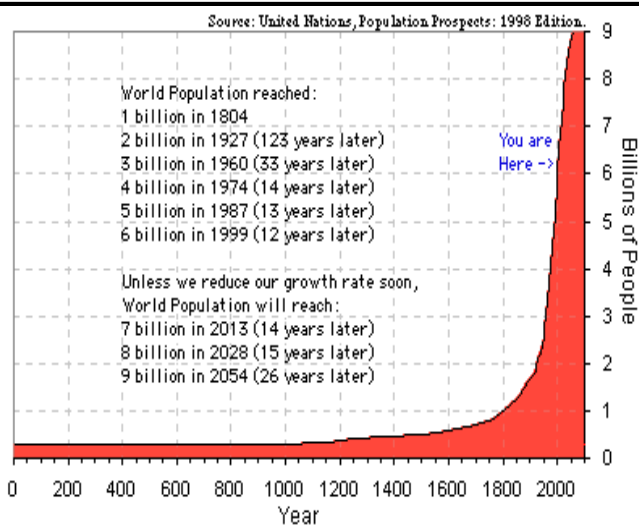
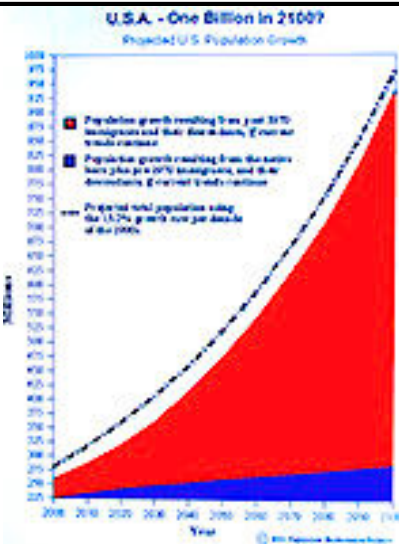
The weather graphs are from Wikipedia’s discussion of the Vostok Station; think of it as the South Pole for Russian Weather Scientists. See < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vostok\\_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vostok_Station) >, and < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenhouse\\_gas#Global\\_warming\\_potential](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenhouse_gas#Global_warming_potential) >.

Let’s review five items.

1. Let’s begin with the most serious issue they avoided: population’s overarching role. It raises the question about who can we trust? The Sierra Club was given a \$50 million grant for its global warming campaign. Does it allow for objectivity? It’s smaller than the \$104 million plus they received to stop any mention of U.S. population. I wouldn’t be surprised to learn that money is also involved in the Ike and Audubons’ global warming initiatives. Also recall the University of Minnesota and other science based organization’s population censorship articles published in the Timberlines last summer. Is it any wonder we never see the direct link of population and global warming?

Of course, it points directly to the remedies they suggested and avoids those it doesn’t. Following what appears to be a script, their remedy was a shallow one, lower consumption. One questioner recognizing the futility of that approach (a courageous Ike) went straight to the point, saying that it does no good to reduce the Footprint if the number of foots increases! Note that the trends in emissions follow from increases in population. Charts below, U.S. on the left, world on the right.

continued



Although Dr. Frelich in his presentation in the Chapter House, in response to questioning, stated population was the overarching issue in global warming, in response to a similar question at this seminar he played down and finessed the question. Dr. Abrahams would not deal with it and Paul Douglas finally said it (the global warming matter) was “complicated” but refused to acknowledge population’s fundamental role. He used the identical language in a similar seminar maybe two years ago.

They should have mentioned that immigration driven U.S. population growth is the only reason the U.S. cannot meet the Kyoto Protocols. Were immigration driven U.S. population not the case, due to ongoing efficiency and productivity techniques, U.S. contributions would be steadily declining.

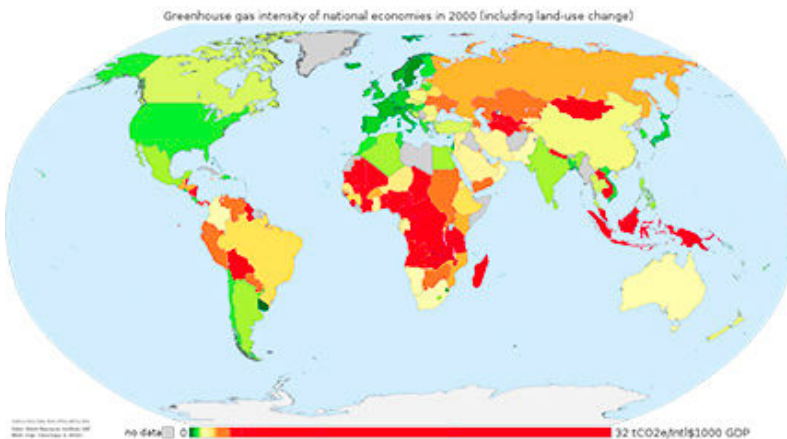
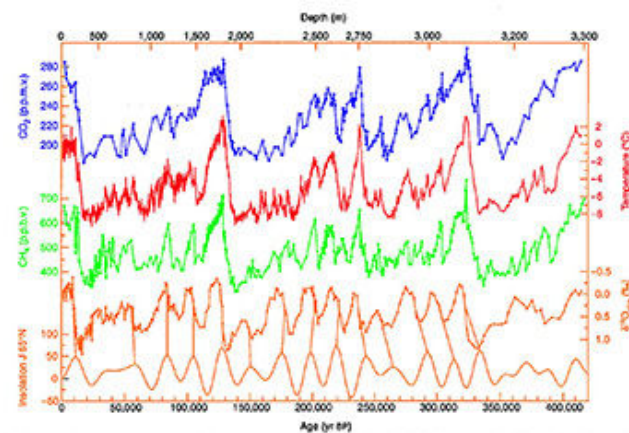
2. Likewise, they forgot to mention that China (with India growing) emissions exceeds that of the U.S. and their volumes are rapidly increasing.

3. Only as a result of a question at the end of the evening did the more serious problems of methane come to light. Nothing was said about the graph the presenters showed demonstrating that methane was ahead of other sources and rapidly increasing. Again, an agenda? The focus on coal is too limiting.

4. There was no mention of agriculture’s contribution. Since agriculture began, its role in adding CO<sup>2</sup> is much greater than any other source. Yet, no mention was made.

5. Dr. Abraham, an Associate Professor of Thermal Sciences was most disappointing. His alternative energy solution is fast and loose with the science and he is totally unable to deal with population. He fails to raise the crucial issue of net energy and the standard of living that might be sustained and at what level of population. It is impossible for alternative energy to replace our current energy systems.

Vostok Trend Charts



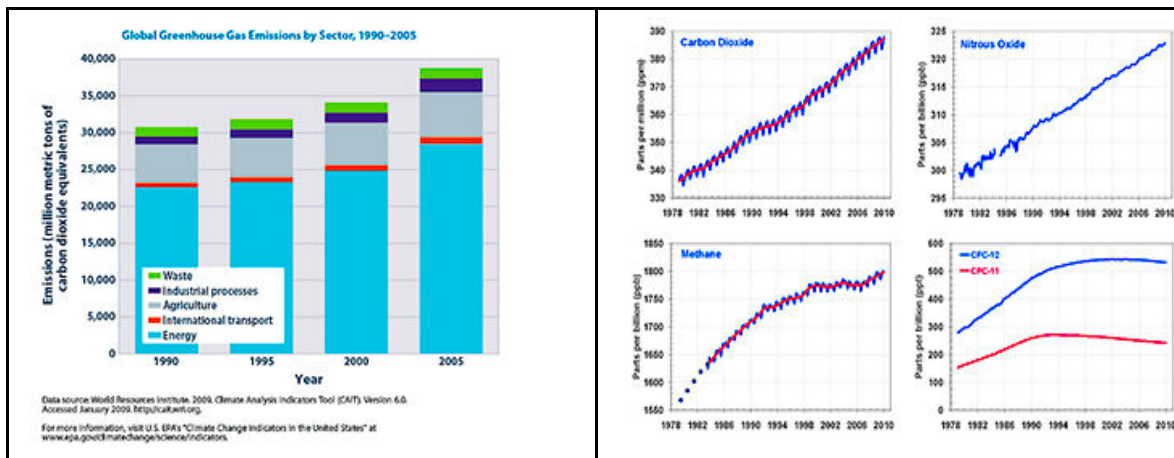
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The right chart shows where agriculture is wrecking havoc on the environment, green is good, reddish or non-green are worse. Scandinavia, Western Europe, and the U.S. are examples of better policies. There was no mention of the misfortune taking place in other lands.

The Vostok weather charts show 420,000 years of regular, approximately 100,000 year cycles of global heating and cooling. The left Vostok chart shows CO<sup>2</sup> at the top trend line with temperature immediately below. The trend reveal there are cycles where both CO<sup>2</sup> and temperatures have reached or exceeded today's levels and that the planet has been in cooling period for perhaps 25,000 years.

These trends are well before humans had any possible climate impact. It also means that saying, as a presenter stated, that those who say the Earth is actually cooling are wrong is wrong; actually the data prove Earth is in a prolonged cooling cycle.

What is different is that the temperatures have remained at high levels over this period while in the past temperature declines steadily declined after peaking. All naturally occurring. There is, however, something that could be different at this moment in time. Most of the forbidding information they offered was about the period of industrialization, especially since 1850. Please see the population graphs. People need energy and agriculture and it is exactly those items the charts demonstrate as contributors to greenhouse emissions.



What is different today is that data that would be mere noise and unseen in long term trend graphs because the period is too short, demonstrate we are experiencing a higher CO<sup>2</sup> thrust above the previous Vostok highs. However, the long term trends document that many times there were even higher levels than currently. Since only in hindsight can human global warming be documented, scientists must rely on math: increase CO<sup>2</sup> = increase in warming. Unfortunately, methane is not considered –for unstated reasons.

When there is uncertainty or doubt, I suggest using the precautionary rule. Implement programs which are the superior ecological approaches. Society learned by hard experience that dumping on the land or into water systems was environmentally and economically a hastily considered idea. Likewise the air envelope surrounding and protecting life on Earth can accept only some given amount of wastes before its ability to sustain life will be reduced. Use caution in the volumes it can sustain.

The situation requires a comprehensive remedy. The structure of this situation is no different than of many other environmental dilemmas. Unfortunately, comprehensive programs and practices to deal with global warming were not evident in this presentation. That insightful Ike summed it all so well: why reduce Footprint (lifestyle) when there are more foots (overpopulation)?

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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](mailto: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.”



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