



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

April 2015
www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

April



- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Jason Husveth, MS, Principal Ecologist and President Critical Connections Ecological Services, Inc. Rare Plants of the Anoka Sand Plan



May

- 01 Set up for the breakfast help needed
02 Pancake Breakfast
12 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Rick Horton, Regional Wildlife Biologist with the National Wild Turkey Federation

Social/Ed meeting –April 28th-7:30 PM RARE PLANTS OF THE ANOKA SAND PLAIN, MN.

Speaker Jason Husveth, Pres. And Principal Ecologist of Critical Connections Ecological Services will speak about natural communities and native landscapes for a diverse array of plant and other organisms. This could connect with interests of pollinator advocates. Part of Champlin and Brooklyn Park are in the Anoka Sand Plain.

Pancake Breakfast May 3, 2015 Serving 8:00 – 1:00 Adults \$7.00 Children \$5:00



Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

March 10th, 2015

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

IWLA Member Pledge: We strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, the wise stewardship of the land and its resources, to know the beauty and understanding of nature, and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space, to the preservation of this heritage, and to our sharing in it.

March 10thBoard of Directors Meeting
March 24thSocial/Educational Meeting
April 14thBoard of Directors Meeting
April 28thSocial/Educational Meeting

Attendees: Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Barbara Franklin, Wes Hendrickson, Joe Klohs, Tim Johnson, Roger Williams **Guest:** Dell Erickson, Marlys Carls-Steiskal

Events/Issues.....Dick/Larry/Jim

Social/Education Meeting Speakers

March – *Paul Danicic*, Executive Director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

April – Jason Husveth, MS, Principal Ecologist and President Critical Connections Ecological Services, Inc. Rare Plants of the Anoka Sand Plan

May – Rick Horton, Regional Wildlife Biologist with the National Wild Turkey Federation

Jerry Bahls from the Audubon Society asked if our Chapter would be interested in having a discussion to see if we could strengthen our positions on certain issues if we combined our groups. Additional details will be discussed at future BOD meetings.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (S 405), which came close to passing the U.S. Senate last year, has been reintroduced in the new session of Congress with changes and additions.

The 2015 bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating lead ammunition and fishing tackle; reauthorize the North American Wetland Conservation Act and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and make public lands generally open to recreational shooting, hunting, and fishing unless specifically closed.

The National IWLA sent a letter urging Senators to support this bill, however, that is not view point of every State Division and/or Chapter. In 2011 and again in 2014 the Breckenridge Chapter presented a resolution to the Minnesota Division of the IWLA in support of a tiered phase out of lead for hunting and fishing activities in the United States. Based on our discussion, Roger Williams volunteered to draft a letter outlining our concerns around lead ammunition.

Dell Erickson and Dick Brown presented a letter written by the IWL, Grand Rapids Chapter that was addressed to DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. The letter commended the DNR for requiring an EAW before further removal of ground water by the R. D. Offut Company in the Park Rapids area. To show our support it was suggested that our Chapter sign off on this letter or consider drafting our own version adding our concerns on the impact of deforestation. Based on our discussion, Dick volunteered to draft our Chapters letter and will send it to the Board for review.

Dell Erickson, attended meetings at the State Capital and presented information on the following bills. HF1534/SF1537 Riparian Buffer, HF1490/SF1433 Comprehensive watershed management, and HF1489/SF1515 Wetland Conservation Act.

Chapter House & GroundsJoe/Jim/Steve

Fireplace repair update – Additional meetings have been held with A J Spanjers Company, engineers from the company will be doing an in-depth inspection of the fireplace. Final requirements and cost to complete the repairs will be presented to the Board after the inspection has been completed.

Kitchen remodel update - The taskforce has had several meetings that included the City of Brooklyn Park to review code requirements and a caterer that provided recommendations. The taskforce took a field trip to A-Z Restaurant Equipment to look at appliance and shelving options.

It was brought to the Boards attention that the Breckenridge Chapter entrance sign has been damaged and will require repair.

Newsletter Marlys

Please consider submitting articles for the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report John

We have received a matching donation from Medtronic that has been added to our building project fund.

Scholarship Committee Jim

The application deadline is April 11, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Webmaster Barb

The Current Project list on our website is in the process of being updated.

Rentals Tim

The number of rentals are down, with the month of July currently being held open for construction

Membership..... Lorraine

Membership numbers were not available at the time of the meeting

Izaak Walton League
Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



SUNDAY
MAY 3, 2015
8 AM - 1 PM



Come and Join Us!
Support Minnesota Conservation

8816 WEST RIVER ROAD
BROOKLYN PARK

ADULTS \$7.00 CHILDREN \$5.00

www.breckenridgeikes.org

PLANT SALE!



RAFFLE!

OPINION

There is often pressure from Deer hunters to increase the Minnesota Deer Herd. This is especially true when the “expected harvest” is down from recent highs.

I have been a moderately avid Deer hunter since 1946. I have slowly become aware through the years that the main reasons Pines and other endemic species of native flora have not reproduced naturally is due largely to Deer depredation.

According to DNR chart (Mpls. Trib March 4) the 1960’s-1970’s was a fairly low “harvest” During this time there was an influx of Pine, Oak and berry shrub renewal on our 240 acres in NE Becker County. Starting in the mid 90’s and into 2014 we planted over 1, 000 White and Red Pine, Tamarack and White Cedar. They were planted randomly over a period of time. Depredation was terrible. We first tried spraying, then bud capping. The only thing that proved 95% successful is 5’ cages around each tree. Trees that do come up naturally never survive above the snowline unless we spot them in time to place a cage over them. Natural re-generation of Oaks is also affected.

Therefore, as an environmental conservationist I believe the Deer population should be managed comparable to more historic levels. Then our forests will have a better chance of natural regeneration. The DNR’s budget should not be dependent on the amount of hunting licenses sold.

Dick Brown

OPINION

CLEANER WATER-POSSIBLY

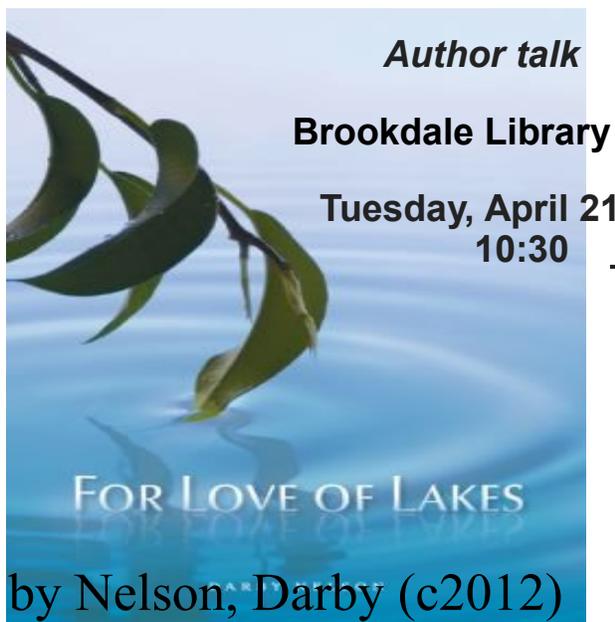
The proposed Buffer Zone rules being debated now in the MN Legislature could be a great improvement for Minnesota’s Clean Water Initiative. It would also be a boon to wildlife, including pollinators, if certain rules were included. Important issues such as: types of vegetation, mowing options, owners’ rights and grazing will be contentious in farmland. In urban and recreational development areas, shoreline Owners will argue: development rights, right to a clear view, right to have a perfect fertilized lawn to water’s edge, etc. Development minded Municipal Authorities will also call for abundant amounts of variances. “Constitutional Rights” will be the cry of many. Yet most of the stakeholders who may object to regulation of their own riparian areas will probably agree the overall objective is reasonable if it does not affect them. Most people don’t realize that as our population increases (mostly by immigration) and development expands, that the accumulated effect on all of our natural resources are greatly accelerated. This includes our aquatic resources. The condition of water resources also affects terrestrial, aquatic, and avian life as well as humans. In an ever crowding society we must realize that our laws and rules have to be made to protect the majority of people and the wildlife of our Nation.

There is another aspect of cleaning up pollution due to farmland practices. Buffer zones are only a partial solution. The vast amount of drain tile that drain much of our polluted water from fields and some former wetlands, goes under any prescribed buffers. This is an even more important issue to be dealt with probably later, if possible. This one will be tough because this is private infrastructure already installed-and still being so!

I don’t believe the many miles of private ditches are even being considered. Perhaps they equal or excel the County ditches in mileage? These private ditches are where most of the pollution originates.

To reach the goal of clean water there is a long way to go and with many special interests in the way, it may never be reached. But as Environmental Conservationists it behooves us to keep advocating!

Dick Brown



Author talk
Brookdale Library
Tuesday, April 21
10:30 -
FOR LOVE OF LAKES
by Nelson, Darby (c2012)

March 24th Program

The Status of Sulfide Mining and Emerging Issues for the BWCA

We were fortunate to have Paul Danicic , Executive Director of Friends of the Boundary Waters, as presenter at our March 24th meeting. The majority of his presentation was spent educating us on the many problems sulfide mining would pose for the Boundary Waters, streams in the Lake Superior watershed and Lake Superior itself. Mining for copper, nickel and other metals exposes sulfite ore, which when exposed to rain, creates sulfuric acid. The major water pollution problems that result impact humans, plants and animals. Mining companies have estimated more than 500 years of treatment will be necessary to protect NE Minnesota from sulfide mining waste. Attempts are made to contain the polluting chemicals but at least 76% of these attempts fail to some degree. Last August the Mount Polley mine in British Columbia, which had been touted as an example of sulfide mining done right, had a major break in its tailing basin releasing two billion gallons of sulfide mining waste into the headwaters of the Fraser River. Please see the chart, created by Friends of the Boundary Waters, that highlights the similarities between this mine and the proposed PolyMet mine in Minnesota.

Paul also discussed other recent concerns that could impact the Boundary Waters and surrounding areas. One bill currently in the state legislature would prevent the enforcement of rules protecting wild rice from sulfate pollution. Another concern is the Forest Service plan for a land exchange that would shrink Superior National Forest by 30,000 acres.

There was piece of good news. The Cook County board unanimously decided against lighted 330 foot tall communication towers on the edge of the BWCA in the Gunflint Trail area. They did approve towers that would not be visible in the wilderness.

To learn more about these and other issues facing the BWCA visit the following websites:

WWW.FRIENDS-BWCA.ORG
WWW.MININGTRUTH.ORG

To comment on these issues contact:

easternsuperior@fs.fed.us on the Forest Service land exchange plan
Your state representative or senator about HF 1000 and SF 1007 regarding rules protecting wild rice from sulfate pollution



Have broken stuff lying around? Don't trash it - Fix-It!

Hennepin County

Fix-It Clinic

FREE!

Saturday
April 18
Noon - 4 p.m.

Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy,
Brooklyn Center

Bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics and more...with free guided assistance, you can disassemble, troubleshoot and fix your item.

No pre-registration required. Items must be carry-in - no oversized items. Please bring

Mt. Polley Mine – PolyMet Mine

A Side-by-Side Comparison



On August 4, 2014, a tailings basin breach at the Mt. Polley mine in British Columbia deposited two billion gallons of sulfide mining waste into rivers and lakes in the headwaters of the Fraser River. Experts have called it “the largest mining disaster in Canadian history.”

Prior to the breach, the sulfide mining industry called this mine a poster child for copper mining, the “gold standard” of sulfide mines, and sulfide mining “done right.”

The proposed PolyMet Mine’s similarities to Mt. Polley raise real concerns.

Mt. Polley Mine British Columbia	PolyMet Mine Minnesota (proposed)
Mt Polley tailings waste contained toxic heavy metals and other contaminants.	PolyMet’s initial description of wastes included toxic levels of arsenic, lead, cobalt, copper and sulfate.
The engineering consulting firm of Knight Piesold designed the tailings basin.	Knight Piesold has been involved in reviewing the engineering design for the proposed PolyMet tailings basin.
Tailings basin was rated one of the least likely in B.C. to adversely effect the environment, harm people or destroy roads or structures if it failed.	Simulated breach showed contamination of a 10 square mile area and 34 properties , reaching the Embarrass River within a 3-hour period.
Estimated costs of cleanup run from \$50 million to \$500 million dollars. It is not clear how the cleanup costs will be paid for, or how to protect taxpayers.	PolyMet has not provided damage deposit information to the public. No estimates or provisions for addressing catastrophic events are provided.

Updating the Chapter House

The Kitchen Remodel task force has been meeting for the last three months. Good progress has been made toward choosing a general plan, appliances, floor coverings, cabinets and counters. The wonderful news is that we are the recipients of donated labor by Brad Larson (an Ikes member) and John Stock, cabinetmaker. The fireplace repair has also been discussed, and A.J. Spanjers will be donating all materials to complete that project. It is anticipated that work on both projects will be completed near the end of July.

We are very fortunate to have members who have made considerable financial donations. This is a time in the life of IWLA where we all have an opportunity to make a donation to these two large capital projects. As we are a 503(c)(3) corporation, your donation is tax deductible.

In January a task force consisting of board members Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren & Barbara Franklin and chapter members Diane Sannes, Judy Klohs, Jennifer Leslie, Kathy Larson and Jerry Steele was formed to make plans to remodel the Chapter House kitchen. The group has met several times, and has taken a field trip to look at appliances and restaurant equipment.

3 sets of preliminary kitchen layout plans were given to the Kitchen Task Force as a starting point, one of which is provided here.

In January Jason Newby from the City of Brooklyn Park met with us to answer questions on the licensing requirements for commercial kitchens. It was determined that based on our direction for the kitchens use, that we would fall under the under the Minnesota Statutes Section 157.22 for Exemptions which does not require any special licensing. Also in attendance, was Carol Knutson from Spectacular Catering, who is providing us with suggestion for improvements from a caterer's perspective.

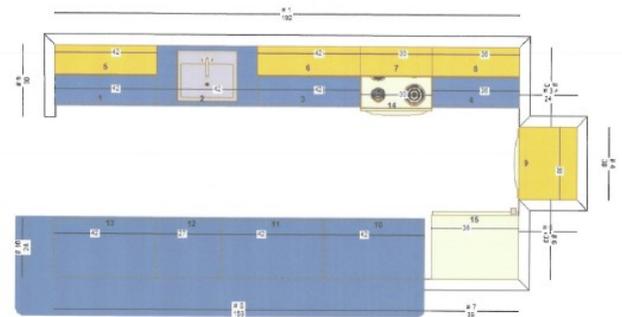


The Chapter wants an up-to-date, efficient, functional kitchen that will maintain the current rustic appearance of the Chapter House and provide ease of use for renters. New appliances and an adequate electrical service are a must. Under discussion is whether to eliminate or modify the east



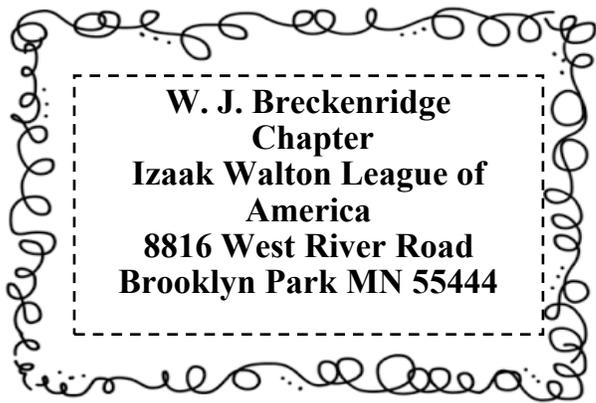
enclosing wall where the door is now, and we want to extend the

remodeling to the storage closet as well. Under the serving counter will be open stainless steel shelving that will be accessible to renters, but the front of the counter will retain a knotty wood façade. We hope to



have drawings of actual plans to scale soon.





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 can provide light refreshments for one of our Tuesday meetings, please contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

April 28 Linda Eriksson
May 26 _____

Thank you

