



# TIMBERLINES



**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
December 2019**

[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

## COMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2019

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve – No meeting

### JANUARY 2020

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Holiday Party 4-7 pm  
Program –Siah St. Clair –  
A Photographer's Wildlife Stories and  
Adventures
- 28 No meeting

### FEBRUARY 2020

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Education meeting  
Don Arnosti – Forestry 7:30 pm

### MARCH 2020

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Education meeting 7:30 pm  
Darby & Geri Nelson – *For Love of a River*

## Logging on the North Arm Trails

In mid-October, Don Arnosti led about a dozen folks, including IWLA members and YMCA Camp representatives, in touring the US Forest Service lands upon which a large portion of the North Arm ski/hiking trails are located (on Burntside Lake a little north of Ely, MN). They did so with the District Ranger Gus Smith. The concern was that the USFS planned a coordinated effort to push ahead with thinning the old forest stands in the area,

as the MN DNR intended. This was being proposed despite considerable evidence and professional opinion that such logging is both not warranted, given the stated forest management objectives, and would be harmful, both ecologically in this fragile terrain, and recreationally, changing an old-forest skiing/hiking experience into one through a logged forest.

Don titled his report on the trip as "good news" and indeed it was. Don, Craig Sterle (past MN Division IWLA President), & Jennifer Hengelfeldt who organized this tour, are united in declaring expectations were exceeded by the receptivity that Gus Smith gave to their perspectives and input. In the five hour visit, they discussed stated objectives, proposed management, and their thoughts.

In the end, Don believes only the fuels reduction/fire hazard risk reduction goal requires any active management – all other goals including opening up the stand to regeneration and multi-age forest composition are being achieved naturally. They discussed the difficulty of access for commercial logging equipment, ecological impacts therefrom, and the lack of commercial value of the balsam which composed the excess fuels/fire risk.

As a result, in the following weeks Gus Smith announced his intention to manage the area via hand harvest of ladder fuels, followed by controlled burns. He agreed that nothing needed to be done except for fuels reduction to reduce risk of a major fire. Gus has formally changed the Forest Service plan and proposed that the Forest Service should volunteer to manage the DNR land in the center of the State Forest. Unfortunately, Gus is moving on to Teton National Forest but stated his actions about the land should be upheld.

*(Logging...cont on p.)*

# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes December 10, 2019

Board of directors meeting, called to order by Steve Schaust at 7:07 pm

Members present: Steve, Joe, Tim, Wes, Jim, Dick, Karen, Larry, Jerry, Wendy

Meeting agenda was distributed, IWLA Member pledge was recited.

- Jim stated that \$450 check has been received from Centerpoint Energy
- Joe mentioned that water was leaking and Centerpoint Energy had to come out twice to investigate.

REI Meeting – date to be confirmed.

April 18<sup>th</sup> Statewide meeting in Duluth, hosted by McCabe Chapter, will be same weekend of large citywide event

Reflective Izaak Walton League signs came in. To be installed in the Spring. These will advertise rentals, meetings, IWL

## Speakers for upcoming meetings:

- January 19: Siah St. Claire
- February 25: Don Arnosti
- March 24: Darby Nelson
- April 28: Potentially Peter Sorenson – Dick will call

## Holiday Party

Joe read results of vote for menu:

Field greens, Vegetable squash medley, oven roasted baby reds, pork loin w/stuffing, oven roasted chicken with champagne sauce; Vegetarian menu: Vegetable lasagna

“Suggested donation” increase to \$20. Barb has list of members whom she will email. Once follow up email goes out, have Barb keep us posted on response to emails, then she may need assistance to call members for confirmation RSVPs.

City of Brooklyn Park has approached Joe to host meeting at the Chapter House on Wednesday, January 29, 6:30-8 pm, open to community for

update on new city plans for updates to River Park. At this meeting, we will try to recruit. Purpose of meeting is to keep public informed and for community feedback. The City provides food and/or treats, sometimes pizza when meetings are held during the dinner hour.

MN Native Landscape has spoken to Dick and Tim – they quoted \$16,000 to plant the Oxbow property with native seed. Dick also spoke about a process of utilizing Roundup and tilling before the land is ready for full new native plantings.

Rototilling pulls the sprouted weeds down and then the next sprouting up to the top, then when they begin to sprout, they get tilled back under – this process can kill the weeds too, over two years’ time. Tim suggested “overplanting” seeds, Dick also thought that aggressive rhizomes (like prairie dogbane) and overplanting together might work. Further discussion about this project will continue. To keep cost under control, city of Champlin parks department might assist with our \$2500 pledge and \$1500 Champlin garden club. Plan has been submitted already (\$16,000), more discussion needs to be had.

## Chapter house and grounds:

Some trees have been trimmed. Still a few that need to be removed (a dead Ash tree in the blvd); there are some oak branches on West River Road that block the IWL sign & entry that need to be removed early in the spring. Noted to add to “TO DO” list: take down dead Ash tree.

Discussion about having John Moriarity come and walk the property and get his recommendations for the future of the property grounds, to revisit the master plan. Tim reminded us that we have been working the master plan – to keep native plants and trees on the property, leave it as natural as possible. Joe made a motion for someone to speak to John Moriarity to get suggestions or ideas – for a 20-year plan, learn what types of native trees to plant, etc. Jim has volunteered to place a call to John Moriarity.

New furnace has been working great. Thermostat continually will need to be monitored after renters have left to make sure it doesn’t get left on too

warm or turned off. \$88 bill received for gas reported by Jim.

Bathroom remodel – Budget approximately \$4500 + additional donation by board member.

Flooring modification less costly, ceramic tile still in the plan for halfway up the walls. February time frame for remodel. Two weeks from beginning to end of project once materials are acquired – volunteers may be needed. February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup> will be blocked for bathroom construction period.

**Rentals** – every weekend through January.

Joe has blown out the driveway. The parking lot will need to be completely plowed – some sections have still not been plowed. Jim will be in touch with John again to confirm that it will need to be done before the weekend renters arrive.

**Treasurer's report** – nothing was received from John.

Jim passed around a report about scholarship and endowment \$55,690 in scholarship endowment. The scholarship comes from the interest income. Recent donations \$3,300 (\$500 from Mary Ellen \$1800 Larry Swanson and Tom Breckenridge sent \$1,000). Moneys will go into endowment in January 2020 – each recipient of scholarship will receive \$600. Checking account balance is \$28,272 + \$450 from Centerpoint. Part of a grant from State division has been received \$1,000 from part of a \$2,000 award. The other half may not be received.

Signs of mice in the building... 5-gallon bucket with anti-freeze setup was suggested. General consensus is that mice like our place, and other houses too.

Dell dropped off quite a large article for each board member to read at the beginning of the meeting. We did not discuss the article.

Meeting adjourned close to 9 p.m.

## **OPINION: Alleviating the loss of hunting license fees**

There is a great angst among hunting groups and promoters about the dwindling participation in the sport. The concern is felt also by sporting sales people and the tourist trade. Loss of license fees which add greatly to funding for habitat is a legitimate fear. Many have become disinterested in hunting because of loss of access to private land that was formerly accessible by “legal trespassing” and also to the lack of game that was more abundant in the 1940’s through the 60s.

In my early deer, pheasant, duck and partridge hunting days, land that was not cultivated, fenced or posted was assumed to be open for trespass. The law changed perhaps in the 70s so that one was considered an illegal trespasser on any land whether posted or not, unless having permission from the owner. Fair to the land owner but rather disheartening to the many hunters that did their hunting by roaming through many unposted properties. This type of hunting was called by some, “still hunting” for deer as opposed to “stand” hunting for some unknown reason. I personally abhorred stand hunting as I felt it was bushwhacking deer in an unsporting manner.

But as our population expanded tremendously and some became more affluent, land became more divided into smaller areas of ownership with permanent and seasonal dwellers. Another disincentive to hunting is the more modern environmentally oriented feeling by many outdoor fans, that a better conscientious form of sport is bird and wildlife watching and photography.

The problem is how to continue future funding for more and improved habitat with fewer licenses being sold. However, there could be a remedy. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund which has been a great boon to our outdoor causes, nevertheless only appropriates about 1/3 of the Fund “to restore, protect and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife”. It seems to me that with dwindling hunters and expanding other types of outdoor enthusiasts, there could be a better niche for

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expanding funding. How about adding another outdoor tax to include only funding for habitat expansion and improvement, whether accessible to the public or not! Wildlife does not stay in one spot and would spread to adjacent areas. Would another ¼ of 1% tax added to the Wildlife Heritage Fund section be able to pass the Legislature? Then the loss of hunting licenses would not be so dire. It seems to me that all outdoor enthusiasts and outdoor associated businesses would support it. Can the rest of our Minnesota populace agree that it is important to preserve and enhance our wild species, both flora and fauna from depletion or even extinction for some? And, that such a funding is necessary?

*Dick Brown*

## The Emery Oak of Champlin may exceed George Washington’s last tree

It has been reported the last great White Oak from George Washington’s estate has died. It was of 12 ft. circumference, about 115 ft. tall, approximately 230 years old and alive as a sapling when Washington lived at Mount Vernon.

In Champlin we have an old Burr Oak (part of the White Oak family) left from the old Emery Estate that measured exactly 12 ft. circumference on July of the year 2009. It was estimated as possibly being 200-250 years old by the Metropolitan area DNR Forester. The director of the U of M’s Hardwood Ecology Program estimated it could possibly be as old as 300 years. This of course is speculative as much is determined by availability of moisture, nutrients and competition during its lifetime.

In approximately the year 2010, a group of Izaak Walton League members and other environmentalists urged the Champlin City Council to try to save the old tree from impending development. It apparently was the oldest tree in town because of its size and species. (According to a two year survey). The Council seemed amenable to the idea as have councils since.

In approximately 2016 the future Mayor of Champlin helped members of the IWLA clear competing brush and saplings from around the old tree.

Now in 2019 the area is being developed and the influence of the Mayor and presumably the Council has persuaded the developers to save the old Oak as there is a barrier surrounding the tree beyond its drip line. The importance of this landmark tree is as a mark of living history as long as it lives and it seems very healthy in 2019.

This old Oak “knew” the Indians of at least two tribes. It witnessed pioneer explorers, colonists, early farmers and now it still thrives in the midst of urban development. What other living thing in Champlin has witnessed what this “Emery Estate Oak” has? It is a living shrine to historic times as long as it is protected properly.

Thanks to the members of the IWLA Breckenridge Chapter, Mayor Karasek, Champlin City Council, the developers and others, the Emery Oak still triumphantly stands as Champlin’s oldest living “witness” to history.

*Dick Brown*

### 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)

# **IWLA Breckenridge Chapter**

# **Holiday Party**

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

\$20 suggested donation

Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund

**4 p.m. – Social Hour**

Silent Auction

Hors d'oeuvres

**5 p.m. – Dinner**

This year the dinner will be catered by

Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering

Bring desserts to share!

**6 p.m. – Program**

Siah St. Clair:

A Photographer's

Wildlife Stories and Adventures

Please RSVP to

Barbara Franklin (bbfrankli@gmail.com)

or

763-657-1907

**Everyone Welcome!**

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
8816 West River Road  
Brooklyn Park MN 55444**



**If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to  
Barbara Franklin at: [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)  
Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**DON ARNOSTI WITH OLD  
GROWTH PINES ON NORTH  
ARM TRAILS NEAR  
BURNTSIDE LAKE**



*(Logging...cont. from p 1)*

In addition, the group discussed the need to support a local contracting industry willing and available to conduct such fuels management work. Don has been working to bring together a company doing such work with USFS personnel and to clear up administrative barriers to such a working relationship. He plans a meeting in December to follow up on this.

Don thinks he speaks for all on the trip (representatives of both Y camps, local residents, conservationists and natural resource experts (retired)) when he says “we are pleased with the direction the USFS is taking in the management of these sensitive and cherished lands, and fervently hope that such efforts have influence on our MN DNR to do likewise on their adjoining lands.”

*Tim Johnson*