



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League October/November 2010 [www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Barb Franklin at 763-657-1907

## Coming Events

### *November*

- 09 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
23 Social/Ed meeting  
"Troubled Waters" video and discussion about he recent Mississippi River video produced by the U of M.

### *December*

- 07 Board Meeting 7:30 pm

### *January*

- 11 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
16 Annual Holiday Party

The program will feature Chris Niskanen, Outdoors Editor/St Paul Pioneer Press . He will present a power point program on his new book, "Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota's State Parks"

### *February*

- 08 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
22 Social/Ed meeting  
Dr. Peter Sorensen of the University of Minnesota

### *March*

- 08 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
22 Social/Ed meeting

### *April*

- 12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
26 Social/Ed meeting

### *May*

- 01 Pancake Breakfast  
10 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
24 Social/Ed meeting

### Walter J. Breckenridge, His Life in Natural History

With John Moriarty , Natural Resources Manager,  
Ramsey County Parks

Walter Breckenridge, known as Breck to his legion of friends, was a national leader in the field of ornithology, a nationally acclaimed filmmaker and lecturer, excellent nature painter, creator of the state parks naturalist program and a prolific author with more than 200 publications to his name. When he died at age 100 last year he was credited with scientific work and environmental advocacy that led to the establishment of many parks and wildlife areas, including Nerstrand Woods State Park, Springbrook Nature Center and the U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

He was the director of the Bell Museum for 20 years, and speaker Moriarty calls him "the leading Minnesota naturalist in the 20 th century." John Moriarty worked with Breckenridge's daughter to edit the manuscript that became My Life in Natural History , Breckenridge's autobiography, generously illustrated with his paintings. In 1995 the U of M established a Breckenridge Chair of Ornithology.

It's a challenge to chronicle the breadth of Breck's many activities and the scope of his influence, but John Moriarty is going to give it a try. A strong advocate for parks and open spaces himself, Moriarty works with many aspects of nature, including reptiles and amphibians, birds, mammals, trees, prairies and invasive species in his role as natural resources manager. He has a strong interest in the history of Minnesota's natural history.

Everyone is invited to this free Saint Paul Audubon program on Thursday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Fairview Community Center, 1910 West County Road B in Roseville, just west of Fairview Avenue. The event is free and open to the public, with free parking. A social time with refreshments begins at 6:45.

## **Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League of America 10-12-10 Meeting Notes**

**Attending:** Steve Shaust, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Bruce Hansen, Roger Williams, Wes Hendrickson,, Bill Barton, Barb Franklin, Marlys Carls-Steiskal

### **CALENDAR:**

**October 23-24**, MN Division Fall Workshop & Board of Directors', Grand Rapids

**October 26** – Social Educational Meeting

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors Meeting

**November 23<sup>th</sup>** – Social Educational Meeting – Camp Menogyn? Barb will check on Troubled Waters film availability & Bob Tilman. ?, or Darby to introduce

**December 12**, MN Division Executive Committee, (*teleconference*)

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors Meeting

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors Meeting

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** – Holiday Party

**January 22-23**, 2011, MN Division Winter Board of Directors, Bush Lake Chapter, @ Bloomington (REI)

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Social Educational Meeting – Dr. Peter Sorenson of U of M, Common Carp

**March 13**, 2011, MN Division Executive Committee, (*teleconference*)

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** - Social Educational Meeting – Paul Danicic FBWCA possibly on public lands

**April 15-17**, 2011, MN Division Annual Meeting, W. J. McCabe Chapter, Duluth

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Pancake Breakfast

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>** – Art Show

**June 12**, 2011, MN Division Executive Committee

**July 11-15**, 2011, National IWLA Convention, Des Moines, IA

### **ISSUES:**

#### **OPEN BOARD POSITION**

**VALENTINE DINNER IN FEBRUARY-** Tater daze fundraiser, chapter donated chapter house last year. We have penciled in on chapter house schedule for February 12<sup>th</sup>. John will follow up.

#### **ART SHOW AND ART WORKSHOP - ART**

**SHOW** – John is interested in doing another art event this year and has a couple of artists who would help with workshops, Brit Howe and Barbara Bulka. Drawing and painting on two consecutive Wednesdays with a portion of income going to the chapter. Outside Nature & inside Art fair Saturday & Sunday with Art show in chapter house continuing thru Tuesday Social Educational Meeting. In

conjunction with Tater Daze? John is working on plans.

**MEP LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** The issues were selected by voting members and are yet to be voted on by the MEP board. A list of MN Division issues (resolutions) was NOT included in the MEP briefing book due to cost.

**MN Division Workshop** - DICK Will attend the to discuss TAX RELIEF FOR CONSERVATION LANDS resolution passed at the annual meeting.

**DFWG** is sponsoring a seminar before DNR roundtable on heritage land acquisitions and may be having a legacy amendment history whitepaper written. We will consider some support of these efforts after finding out what MN division is going to do.

### **CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS:**

**Paint Projects** – new windows outside, shed inside to lighten up & seal

**Winter Snowplowing** – Jim is arranging

**Fall Leaf Clean-up** – Scouts November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Fireplace Cap?**

**Battery replacement for front sign** – Steve

**Letters on Chimney** – Wes will have letters made, we will install

**REFINISH ON FLOOR?** – It was recommended by the contractor to add a second sealer coat to the floor – Roger motioned Barb seconded to do second coat on floor with limit of \$600 max (estimate was ~\$500.) passed

### **NEWSLETTER**

**Treasurers Report** – Accounts reviewed and we have \$184 more than 12 months ago.

**Scouts** – We received charter from National. Raking on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Overnight on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Scholarship Committee** – Checks were sent out.

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

**Rentals** - Slightly ahead of last year, behind two years ago. November calendar is open.

**Membership** – at ~126 members.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Barton 10-12-10

***Volunteers for  
refreshments needed.***

***Please call  
Melissa Sonnenberg  
if you can help.  
763-549-8873***

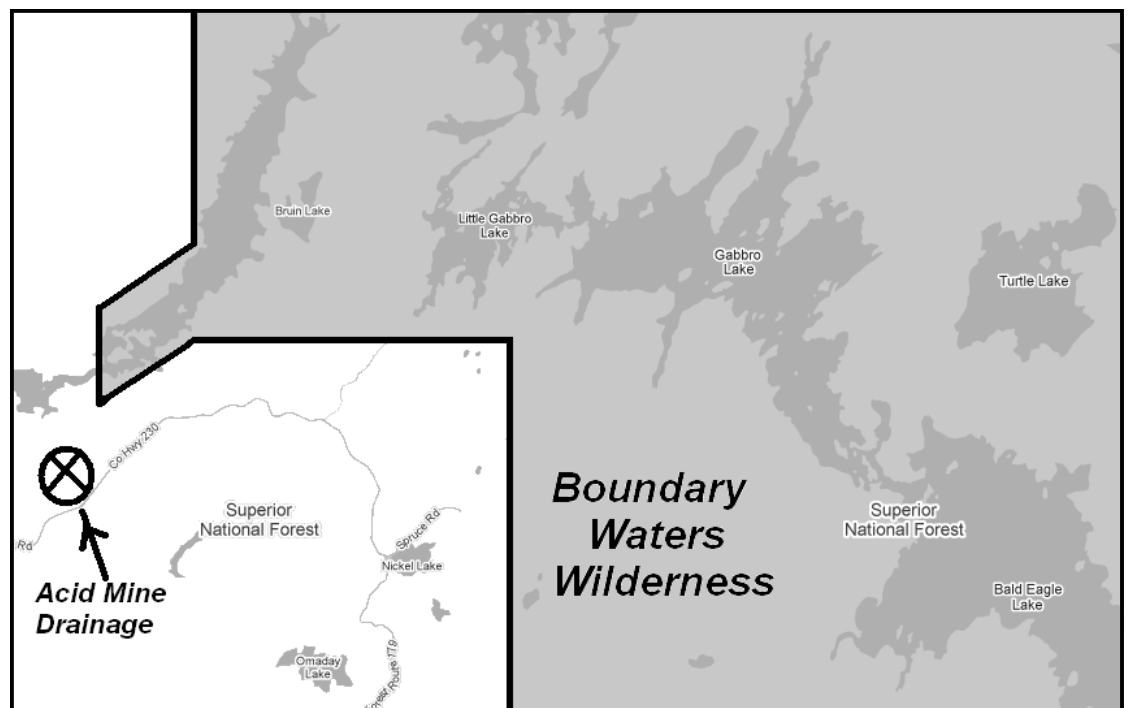
# **FRIENDS BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS**

"This is the most beautiful lake country on the continent. We can afford to cherish and protect it."

## **From the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**

As has been widely reported in the media, we recently discovered a couple miles from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness where acid mine drainage is leaching from a 36-year-old sulfide mining exploration site. Drainage from the site contains extraordinarily high levels of toxic metals, including copper and arsenic. This area is near Spruce Road (County Highway 230) near the South Kawishiwi River Entry Point. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) cannot demonstrate that it has monitored the site whatsoever since 1976 and, when asked about the lab results, the MPCA informed the Friends of the Boundary Waters that the agency is unlikely to take any action to further analyze the drainage or reclaim the site to prevent the toxic pollution from continuing.

Greg Seitz  
Communications Director  
Friends of the  
Boundary  
Waters Wilderness



## **Kootznoowoo Sea Kayaking – August 2010**

- John Rust

My son Kyle and I have visited Alaska several times in the last few years. We have backpacked in Denali National Park, backpacked/paddled in Katmai National Park, and explored Wrangell St. Elias National Park together. So when I suggested we go to Alaska earlier this year he said... 'Dad, we've already been to Alaska, let's go somewhere *different* this time.... somewhere like a rain forest.' Thinking that he had pinned me down to Costa Rica or equatorial Brazil, I got to thinking a little bit. Yes, I know that's dangerous, but sure enough, after a little research I hit upon the perfect solution... 'BINGO'!!!! We'll go sea kayaking in the rainforest of the Kootznoowoo Wilderness... and guess what? It just happens to be in Alaska. Problem solved! I guess I'm a pretty lucky father, because Kyle continues to do things with the 'Old Man' time and time again, and off we were on another adventure, the 'Old Man' and the young 'Whipper Snapper.'

After flying to Juneau we took a water taxi across the icy waters of Stephens Passage to Oliver Inlet State Park on Admiralty Island. The island is called 'Kootznoowoo' by Tlingit natives, which roughly translated means 'Fortress of the Bears', is home to 1500 Alaskan brown bears and about 500 human souls, most of which live in the village of Angoon on the far side of the island. After being dropped off with our gear and rental kayak, we were left to explore 1 million acres of primeval wilderness. Good thing Kyle was with, because I didn't care to be alone and most importantly, he did most of the heavy lifting. First we had to portage the 100 pound double kayak and our two large duffel bags of gear one mile to the protected sea waters of the Seymour Canal, a 40 mile long cove which connects on the far end to Stephens Passage. The most fortunate circumstance was that there is a one mile tram on rails, which connects Oliver Inlet and the Seymour canal. So portaging was a breeze.

Our portage using the tram went over and past bog, wetland and open savannah that to my untrained eye appeared to be something one might see in the open savannahs of Africa. The majority of tree species in the Tongass rain forest of Admiralty Island are relatively long lived (700 – 1500 years); Western Hemlock, Sitka Spruce, and Western Red Cedar. Some of the more common vegetation included skunk cabbage (3 foot long leaves), devils club (looks like giant maple leaves emanating from a prickly stalk), and 'old mans beard' – lichen hanging from the trees. Being that we were within the largest temperate rainforest in the world, we got confirmation of that fact, getting rain and drizzle every day and spent a bit of time in the tent reading.

Unbeknownst to us, earlier in the day we had arrived on the island, two state of Alaska employees working on the tram, had to shoot and kill a charging brown bear. They had dragged it off into the brush, so we were unaware of what had occurred. Our first two nights were spent camping at the end of the tram near a salmon stream, unaware that the dead brown bear in the brush was probably being consumed by other bears in the middle of the night.

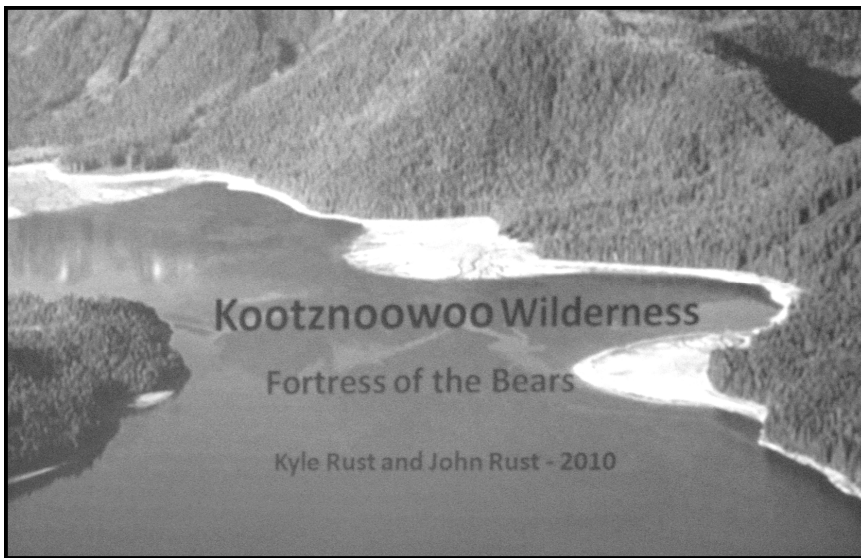
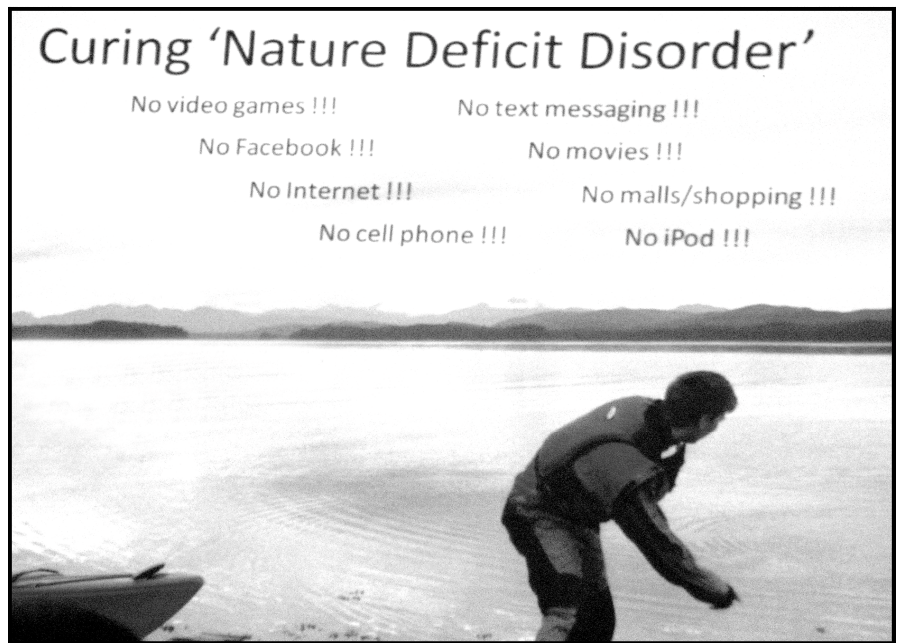
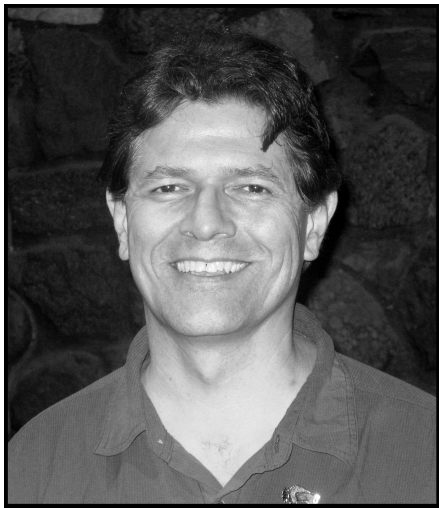
Being that this was our first sea kayaking expedition there were salt water considerations we had to deal with. For one, what to do about low and high tides and tidal mud flats that can stretch for up to a mile. Another factor was finding fresh water. We couldn't just filter and fill our jugs while out paddling in salt water. To get fresh water we first had to find a fresh water stream outlet. Then travel 1-2 hundred yards up stream to get beyond the brackish water before filling our water containers. Being that most streams here are salmon spawning, we were cautious about traveling too far into the brush to get fresh water. There were continual signs of Alaskan brown bears (there are no black bears on Admiralty Island). Bear sign we saw while getting fresh water were: tracks, scat piles, and half eaten salmon. At one point we came across a partial bear skeleton. Twice we came across bears while at stream outlets – although we always kept a respectful and safe distance and retreated to the kayak and shoved off.

As far as tides go, we had a tide book, which told us approximate times for high and low tides for this area. We used that to our advantage, but did not always make the best use of the tide table, having to portage our gear and kayak a mile when we ignored the tides and decided we had had enough of the rain and drizzle and decided to make a run for a warm cabin on the way back.

We both wore semi-dry suits (a cheaper version of a dry suit). We had tried wet suits on trips in the past, but I had found them to be constricting and hot. The dry suits are tight around the neck and wrists, and have protective dry-suit footie's, so we could get in and out of the kayak and travel on semi-submerged tidal flats and streams without getting our feet wet.

Being from the Minnesota, some of the items of interest that we came across while paddling were: weird looking kelp, seals, jellyfish, sea urchins, crabs, and barnacles. We had hoped to paddle down to the Southern portion of the Seymour Canal which is open to the Stephens Passage and possibly come across humpback or killer whales. But because of our lack of experience with sea kayaking and the frequent rain and drizzle we experienced, we were more cautious and spent more time in the tent reading than we would have liked to.

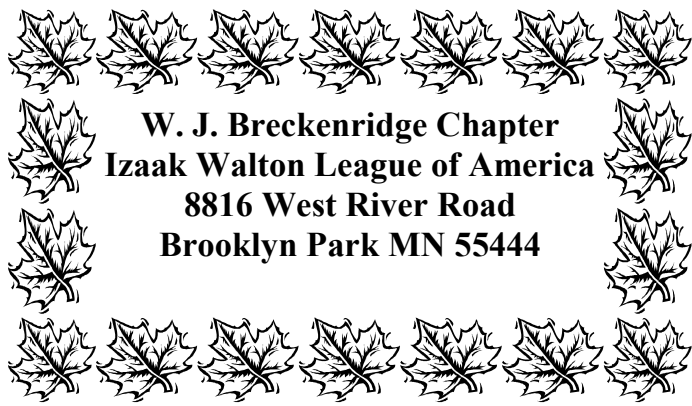




John Rust presented a program at the October Social/Educational meeting on his Keyaking trip in Alaska. He and his son Kyle are pictured here.

Kyle Rust examining kelp while sea kayaking near Admiralty Island (Alaska).





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Izaak Walton League of America  
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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**

**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."**



Bill Barton and Dick Brown visit "The Lost Forty" - a stand of old growth red and white pine near Grand Rapids, MN. Photo by John Rust. Dick, Bill, and John attended the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League meeting in October in Grand Rapids.