



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League

April 2025

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

April 2025

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
Grace Loppnow, Ph.D. Invasive Fish Coordinator,| Ecological and Water Resources Division: Aquatic Invasive Species

May 2025

- 1 Friends of the MN Scientific and Natural Areas 10th Anniversary
- 3 Pancake Breakfast setup
- 4 **Pancake Breakfast 8 am-1 pm**
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 **Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm**
John Moriarity – Artists & Naturalists at the Bell Museum?

Grace is the Invasive Fish Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where she has worked since

August 2021. In this role, she serves as the state’s subject matter expert on invasive fish and plans and coordinates management for invasive carp. Prior to joining the DNR,



Grace worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for five years, conducting surveys for invasive fish and invertebrates and testing methods for catching black carp. She holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, with a minor in Risk Analysis for Invasive Species. She's passionate about water and has been excited to bring her knowledge on invasive species back to Minnesota after stints in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

Social Educational Meeting:

Tuesday, April 22 7:30 pm

Grace Loppnow, Ph.D. Invasive Fish Coordinator

On Earthday, April 22, come to hear Grace Loppnow's talk providing background on Minnesota DNR's Invasive Species Program. She will provide an overview of program activities, goals, authorities, and current priorities. She also encourages folks to bring their questions on invasive fish, her favorite topic to dive into! Stay for light refreshments and social time afterwards.



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



Pancake
Breakfast



Sunday, May 4, 2025

8 am-1 pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Raffle \$2

**Breckenridge Chapter House
8816 West River Road
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444**

Bluebird Trail

Jerry and Wendy Steele installed ten new bluebird nest boxes, removing the old ones on our Bluebird Trail. Two rectangular ones were left as they were.

Scout leaders from Troop 3276 (Champlin) have expressed interest in monitoring the nestboxes this year and there is a possibility that an Eagle Scout project may come out of it. We are very excited about this conservation project of the Breckenridge Chapter and would love to get young people involved.

Interestingly, we learned from last month's bluebird speaker, Kathy Meinhardt, that the Bluebird Recovery Project was started in the 1960's when an Eagle Scout project was funded by the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter to build a trail in association with Dick Peterson, the designer of the same nestboxes Jerry put up on the trail last month.



Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas

Did you know that half the members of the board of directors of Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas are Breckenridge Chapter members? The board also meets at the Chapter House occasionally.

That's may be why the group has chosen to have their tenth anniversary celebration at the Chapter House on May 1. Readers are invited to be their guests between 5:00 and 8:00 PM and enjoy light refreshments while reminiscing and catching up on the history and future plans.

If you can attend, please contact
Nancy Falkum
guthrie55981@gmail.com
Phone / Text: 651-764-5605

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to help with the Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 4 or setup on Saturday, May 3 9 am-12 pm please call Jim Arnold 763-560-8972.

In Memory of Vera Brown June 7, 1928 – March 20, 2025



Vera Clare (Malamen) Brown will be sorely missed at the Breckenridge Chapter for her many years of service.

Vera was the youngest of eight children born to George and Clara Malamen on a farmstead near Dawson North Dakota. The family moved to Warba, MN, then to Bass Lake, Hennepin County, MN and then to Champlin, MN. Vera attended the historic, one-room Dunning School, graduated from Anoka High School in 1946, worked on her parent's truck farm and attended MN School of Business. Vera married her next door neighbor Richard Brown after a 4-year courtship on October 1, 1949 and celebrated their 75th anniversary just last October. Vera and Dick have three sons Robert (Linda), Stephen (Maureen) and William (Sandy), 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Vera was active in Zion Lutheran church's Hanah Circle, Champlin's Pack 276 Cub Scouts and very active in the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League as secretary, treasurer and member of the Board of Directors. She was also a delegate to the annual convention of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League many times and sat on the board of directors of the Minnesota State Division of the Izaak Walton League. Vera was always helpful and very active in arranging the annual pancake breakfasts, holiday parties, ice cream parties and cornfests of the Breckenridge Chapter.

Although all of Vera's 7 siblings have died years ago, and most all of her high school friends, there are several people of the next generations who remember her from church circle, our Boy Scout days, and especially from the "Ikes", Champlin Garden Club and Champlin Historical Society.

Vera was also satisfied in selling their property to the City of Champlin to be used as a park and natural area.

Vera passed peacefully in her own home on March 20, 2025 and will be deeply missed by family, relatives and friends.

A service for Vera will be held on Monday, April 28 at Zion Lutheran Church 1601 S 4th Ave, Anoka, MN 55303 with visitation at 10am, service at 11am and a light lunch afterward.

Memorials may be sent to:
Izaak Walton League of America
Breckenridge Chapter
8816 West River Road
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Opinion: Citizen Beaver

April 8 - International Beaver Day

Not being a trained biologist or environmentalist, nevertheless I have observed a few things in my lifetime. I have heard that American beavers are inhabitants only of North America. A European species is somewhat different.

The beaver has human friends and beneficiaries (mostly silent) and enemies most vehemently. Many don't even know there are beavers! Many that dislike the beaver are farmers, park managers, orchard owners or suburban people with fruit and shade trees. Beavers whittle down prize trees in these categories for building their lodges, dams and for food. They flood cropland and pastures creating swamps and wetlands non-beneficial to agriculture and development and cause many creek crossings to be unusable.

Beavers enjoy breeding, raising their young and protecting one another from the elements as all creatures alive do in one way or another. They do so by constructing specially designed houses.

Beavers produce many benefits for humans and wildlife of other species and for the general environment. Beavers create dams and ponds which hold back water favoring the easing of drought and

keeping many streams from becoming intermittent by creating wetlands, bogs and ponds, which in turn seep out their water slowly. This also helps to prevent erosion of stream banks and preventable flooding.

Beavers seldom cut oak trees and seem never to harm conifers. The taste and stickiness of the pitch of conifers seem to be the reason. (Ever tried it? Yep!)

Although beavers sometimes interfere with the intentions of humans for development and farming, they are a great benefit to most all wildlife. What wildlife and even humans are averse to water? In a continent that seems to be drying up it seems the holdback conservation of water, especially in many relatively small quantities such as beaver dams provide should be a great benefit to the Nation and a benefit to the preservation of our natural heritage.

Bucky and Betty Beavers are generally good citizens of the North American continent if not necessarily our government. Even without waving the flag, pledging allegiance or spouting patriotism as so many unworthy politicians presently do! Beavers are more indigenous than our indigenous people!

Dick Brown
January 30, 2025



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
Deadline is the First 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.

Chapter House Rental Rates*

Current Members who are in good standing only
(damage deposit: \$200.00; \$100 for previous renters)

Monday through Thursday.....\$150.00
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays.....\$200.00
Scouts: (damage deposit \$50.00)
Overnights.....\$50.00

*Rates and terms subject to change without notice; please contact the
Chapter for
special circumstances.

The Rental Agreement and Renters Checkout List are available on our
website by clicking
here.

For availability, please contact Tim Johnson by email johns860@mac.com