



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter

### Izaak Walton League

#### February/March 2012

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



International Earth Day  
March 20\*

## Coming Events

### March

- 13 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Carrol Henderson, DNR Non-game species

### April

- 13 Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
14 Brooklyn Center EarthFest 2012  
Brooklyn Center HS, 1-4 p.m.  
Will Steger, keynote speaker at noon  
24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Alex Gehrig from Minnesota Waters

### Upcoming

August 25 - IWL 90th Anniversary  
Celebration Holiday Inn Maplewood

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)

March 27 -  
April 24 -

Thank you!



### Lee Frelich: Fires in the Boundary Waters – past and present

by John Rust

The Breckenridge Chapter program for February was presented by Forest Ecologist Dr. Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota. Lee presented the fire history of the BWCAW as researched over the course of 20 years by Miron Heinselman. About 375,000 acres of the 1.1 million acre wilderness have never been logged. In 1864, a year of drought, about 400,000 acres burned in the BWCA/Superior National Forest. That year St. Paul received 12 inches of rain.

The Pagami Creek fire of 2011 was started by lightning and burned 93,000 acres. The out of control campfire which started the Ham Lake fire of 2007 burned 75,000 acres in total, about half of the burn area being in Canada. The lightning started Cavity Lake fire of 2006, burned about 31,000 acres.

Smoke from the Pagami Creek fire reached Chicago, and was visible in satellite photos over Poland and Ukraine. Wildlife such as moose, usually are able to reach water in a forest fire, and survive, however the day that the winds blew up in the Pagami Creek Fire, the fire spread so fast, and burned 64,000 acres in one day, that several moose died in the fire.

(Continued on page 7)



\*March 20 is also  
Extraterrestrial Abductions Day

## **Breckenridge Chapter IWLA 2-14-12 Board of Directors Meeting**

Board Members Attending: Dick Brown, Bruce Hansen, Jim Arnold, Lorraine Spears, John Fraley, Larry Kennebeck, Wes Hendrickson, Steve Schaust, Barb Franklin, acting secretary

NOTE: Still one open board position

### CALENDAR

FEB 28 SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL MEETING –  
Lee Frelich, BWCA Fire Update  
MAR 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAR 27 SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL MEETING –  
Carrol Henderson – DNR Non-Game  
Species  
APR 10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APR 14 Brooklyn Center EarthFest 2012,  
Brooklyn Center High School 1-4 p.m.  
APR 24 SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL MEETING –  
Alex Gehrig – Minnesota Waters  
MAY 6 Pancake Breakfast  
MAY/JUN Possibly show *Growth Busters* FILM  
AUG 25 90<sup>th</sup> IWLA Anniversary Celebration

### ISSUES

- 90<sup>th</sup> IWLA 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sat, Aug 25 – Possibly use large picture donated by Brad Larson as an auction item
- State Board meeting went well. Donations exceeded expenses by \$58.88
- Holiday Party – meal donations totaled \$224; we made \$711 from the silent auction.
- California Kitchen Fundraiser March 1 – we will send out reminder emails to membership the week before
- Brooklyn Center EarthFest April 14 - Dick moved to donate \$300 to Brooklyn Center Earth Day, Jim seconded, passed unanimously. Because of this commitment we will not support the Coon Rapids Green Expo on the same day this year. We hope to do both in the future. John Fraley, Jim and perhaps others will set up and man the booth.
- Population Resolution – Dick presented the final draft of the Population Resolution (q.v. elsewhere in this issue) and moved to send it to State, Jim seconded, passed unanimously

- Dick encouraged everyone to call their Reps about HR7 – drilling in Alaska – and support the Alaska Wilderness League

### CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS

- Some projects are waiting for warm weather: chimney repairs and new letters, front entrance garden
- Dick, John Fraley, Bill will install the new toilets that Bill has
- Kitchen faucets have been fixed but still leak. They need to be replaced.
- Camp on the eastern side of the Island has been removed. Materials stored in shed.
- Firewood splitting and stacking could be a good job for Scouts. Tom Reid cut up a large tree that fell last summer and two dead trees that were threatening to fall on to West River Rd. Jim suggested renting a splitter

TIMBERLINES – Barb Franklin will edit the Feb/Mar issue

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bruce reported on the checking and savings account. A 2011 financial report will be ready for the March *Timberlines*.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Application materials have been sent to schools

RENTALS – A number of inquiries but no new rentals to report.

MEMBERSHIP – Lorraine reported that we have 120 members

The meeting was adjourned.

### **HELP NEEDED ON ASIAN CARP ISSUE!**

Keith Ellison is introducing a bill to give the Army Corp of Engineers authority to close a lock if need be. He's looking for bi-partisan support. Please urge your Congressman (especially Eric Paulsen in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District) to support this bill (Protect America's River Act of 2012.)

# Putting the unsustainable U.S. population in perspective

by Dell Erickson

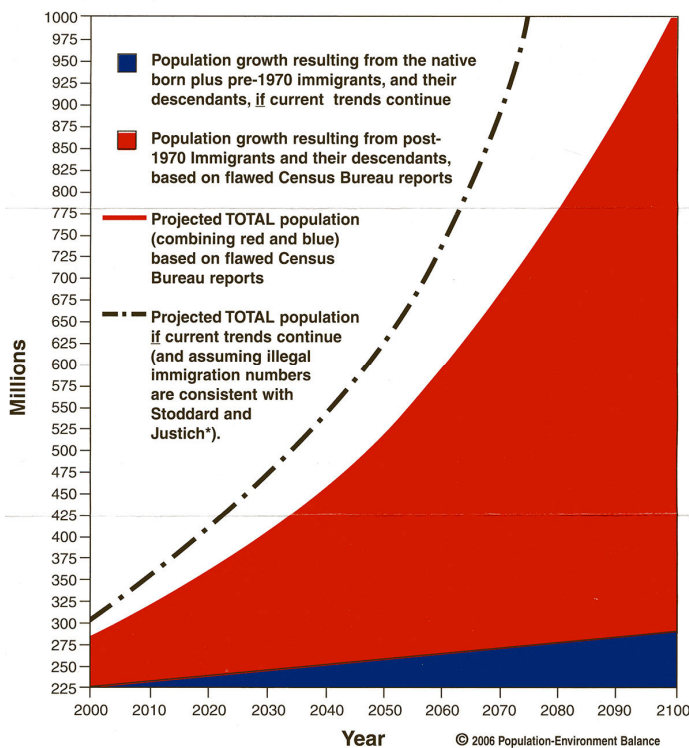
When will there be enough people in the U.S.?

The National Ikes won't address the matter. Much to their credit, the Breckenridge Chapter asks the question but, regrettably, avoids the answer. It appears the National IWLA and local Ikes are conflicted between being a U.S. environmental organization and being a globalist human rights organization with some environmental credentials.

The answer is important. A 'human rights' organization will see the graph at the left and see something positive – the U.S. as a refuge for the world. A 'refuge' until the U.S. is on par with the standards of those wanting to immigrate.

On the other hand, an environmentalist would see terribly frightening trendlines. An environmentalist would ask where on the graph is a sustainable U.S. population level and environmental safety. A knowledgeable person would identify the sustainable population level as at the year 2000 population – at most. That figure should be the National and local Ike's population objective.

**U.S.A. – One Billion in 2075**  
**Current Trend of U.S. Population Growth**



Population-Environment Balance—2000 P Street, NW—Suite 600—Washington, DC 20036  
Tel.: (202) 955-5700 Fax: (202) 955-6161  
Email: uspop@us.net Website: www.balance.org

Some will look at the trendlines and say they are too high. I somewhat agree. The trendlines are based on historical data up to 2006. The economy crashed soon after and as always occurs in a weak U.S. economy, in-migration slowed and immigrant fertility declined. Thus, the dashed line and the red line can be shifted downward somewhat.

However, the point remains that all U.S. population growth above the bottom blue line is from foreigners, with much of it from the relatively high fertility of legal immigrants and illegal aliens, and of so-called "refugees". It is policy and policy can – and should – be changed.

What to do about it? Are we really science based or do we merely recite slogans? Fifty years ago we said, "stop at two." Today, the one-child family needs to be considered and no foreign adoptions. Finally, because all U.S. population growth above the low blue trendline is from legal and illegal immigration, the U.S. needs to immediately institute a ten year immigration moratorium, enforce all immigration laws (zero illegal immigration), and change the Obama open borders policy to a long-term policy that achieves a zero balance between total legal immigration and emigration, approximately 150-200,000 annually after the moratorium.

\*Sources U.S. graph: Population-Environmental Balance. 2006.  
< <http://www.balance.org/> > .

## Resolution

### A Population Policy for a Sustainable United States

The following was adopted by the Board on 2/145/12.

The Izaak Walton League of America is an 89 year old organization who's stated Mission is: *To conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soil, forest, water, and other natural resources of the United States and other lands; to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization.*

To guide the League's national staff, chapters and divisions in dealing with new and emerging issues, the League has published a Policy Manual, containing the conservation policies approved by delegates through the years. The manual states, "The League resolves to use the best science available as the basis for development and execution of League policies, and urges all levels of government to do the same."

In reviewing the 2011 policy manual, the Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA finds a particular policy to be contradictory, not based on available science, and antithetical to the stated mission. For example: Chapter I, Sustainable Use of Resources, includes the following policy statements:

#### A) Principles

- 1) It is important to promote productive equilibrium between people and the environment by bringing population and consumption into balance with the resource base.
- 3) All segments of the population must have opportunities to achieve lives of quality and dignity."

...AND...

E) Resource Consumption: The League urges the government to develop resource utilization policies that:

- 1) a) Recognize that each generation has the right to use only a small portion of limited resources and has the responsibility to share those resources with the coming generations.
- b) Generally, reduce demand for and consumption of scarce resources."

...AND...

C) Population: Government and private efforts should include but not be limited to:

- 1) a) Developing a national policy on population and natural resources that integrates population, natural resources, and technology.
- c) Developing goals for stabilizing populations that incorporate the principles of sustainable economic development, social equity, education, basic and reproductive health care, and environmental conservation.
- e) Supporting efforts to stabilize population through family planning and promote equality between men and women

#### 2) The League supports the right of all persons to freely decide the number and spacing of their children consistent with the dictates of individual conscience and accepted medical practice.

We submit that Policy 2 above seriously compromises our ability to achieve success in implementing all the other stated policies and is not based on available science or reason and should be deleted.

#### How much is enough?

As early as 1974, when the world population was about 4 billion, the United Nations warned of a bleak future without methods to stem the rapid increase in population. Fast forward to October 31, 2011 when the world's population reached 7 billion. At current rates of increase, the UN estimates a world population of between 8 and 11 billion by 2050. Today, nearly half the world's population is younger than 25 years of age – a huge base for growth. This past summer, we witnessed severe drought in central China and Africa – the worst drought in 60 years, claiming lives and causing widespread human suffering and displacement of populations. We see unprecedented logging of the rain forest, over-fishing of the oceans, the elimination of species and the general and widespread depletion of resources around the world to support the growing masses. We witnessed an Arab Spring, when citizens in numerous countries, rose up against despotic rulers, to demonstrate their despair over the lack of food, employment, sanitation and overall quality of life.

But we are not exempt from these conditions in the United States. The US Census Bureau estimates: 1 birth every 8 seconds, 1 death every 12 seconds, 1 international immigrant (net gain) every 46 seconds for a net combined population gain of 1 person every 17 seconds.

The Census reports show a total US population of 281,421,906 in 2000. That number rose to 308,745,538 in 2010 – an increase of 2.7 million (9.7%) in a decade. The population today (1-6-12) is estimated at 312, 809,807 – an increase of over four-million in one year! In 2010, over 30% of the US population was under 18 years of age – again, a large base for growth. And, studies have shown that unintended pregnancies account for nearly one half of all annual births in the United States.

We've recently witnessed a major recession in our economy. Millions of people have lost their homes, their jobs and often their hope for a decent future. Our citizens have taken to the streets in an "Occupy Wall Street" effort (our own version of Arab Spring) out of frustration with the current leaders in business and politics and the growing disparity between the haves and have-nots. Many disenfranchised citizens will likely never regain the standard of living they enjoyed prior to the recession. The gap between the rich and poor will continue to widen. At the same time millions of citizens are out of work, the leaders in Washington are unable or unwilling to develop sensible policies regarding those who legally or illegally enter the country wishing for employment and a better way of life.

And, Minnesota is not exempt from our addiction to population growth. The State Demographer's Office shows that population increased by 348,450 (7.8%) between 2000

(4,919,429) and 2010 (5,303,925). The Office projects additional growth of 405,775 by 2015 (5,709,700) and over 1 million by 2035 (6,446,300).

How much population growth is enough? Serious scientists have already determined that the United States population is beyond long-term stability.

Will an increase of one-half million people over the next five years help or hinder Minnesota's Izaak Walton League in accomplishing its Mission? How about 1 million? The fact is, none of the problems we face today as a nation, or within our states and communities, will be easier to solve if we continue to increase our population unabated! Each additional person requires additional land, water and natural

resources for food, housing and infrastructure. They will require cars to drive, houses to live in, schools to attend and food, water and energy to consume.

## Proposal

The Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America believes it is time for this organization to seriously reconsider its Mission. If we are primarily a hunting and fishing club, the Mission statement needs to be amended to reflect that narrow purpose. If however, we are dedicated to our current mission, we simply must face the fallacy of what we say we're about, and the policy statements we've developed to achieve our objectives.

Like or not, the unbridled growth in population will frustrate our attempts at improving the sustainable use and development of resources, the protection of our air, water and general environment, or the general health and welfare of our State's citizenry.

In this regard, we propose the following policies be adopted, by resolution, by the State and National IWLA directors for amendment to the 2011 Conservation Policies, Chapter I) C) Population:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Minnesota Division IWLA, at convention in Wabasha, MN, April 22, 2012, supports the following:

1. Efforts to stabilize and eventually reduce population by improving the status of women, and reducing the numbers of unintended pregnancies, through education, economic opportunity and improved health care.
2. Efforts by government and the private sector to develop incentives for limiting the fertility rate to a replacement rate of not more than two children per family (one for each parent) – which is the current fertility rate in the US.
3. Efforts by the federal government, aided by the states and local governments, to develop consistent and enforceable policies limiting illegal immigration, and achieve a balance between legal immigration and emigration.
4. Efforts to cease aid to countries that refuse to implement family planning policies.

# Where's the Beef? – a philosophical problem of convictions

Opinion - by John Rust

Beef cattle are pretty much everywhere – that's where. According to Wikipedia, the world cattle population is estimated to be about 1.3 billion head. The following Wikipedia table shows the cattle population in 2009.

Region	Cattle Population
India	281,700,000
Brazil	187,087,000
China	139,721,000
United States	96,669,000
EU-27	87,650,000
Argentina	51,062,000
Australia	29,202,000
Mexico	26,489,000
Russian Federation	18,370,000
South Africa	14,187,000

I grew up eating beef. It's probably my favorite meat to eat. Mom would make steaks and beef roasts for the family quite often. But as I get older I'm having some second thoughts about the effects of eating beef on my health, and also about some of the effects that ubiquitous cattle have on the earth's ecosystems. Cattle are large animals and use vast amounts of the earth's land area and resources to sustain them. These are resources that if not used to raise cattle, might be put to use for other purposes.

Examples include providing habitat for native wildlife and vegetation or cultivating less destructive products for human consumption.

Last summer I did some camping around Glacier National Park. One of the Montana campgrounds I stayed in was at the Pishkun Reservoir. There were cow-pies every where, even on the camping pads. It was difficult to find a clean place to put up my tent. This was adjacent to the Pishkun Reservoir and Wildlife Refuge in a designated camping area. As I kayaked along the reservoir shoreline I noticed that much of the land leading into the water was trampled and over-run with cattle tracks. Erosion from the effects of cattle negatively affects many

stream banks and shorelines wherever cattle exist.

Cattle can have some severe impacts near sensitive areas such as habitat adjacent to national parks. Near Yellowstone for instance, wildlife that leaves the park is often shot on behalf of cattle. Some Yellowstone bison and elk carry a bacterium called Brucellosis. There is the potential that this disease could be spread to cattle on public lands. Consequently, Montana agencies round up and slaughter bison that leave the park. The bison are doing what they need to do to survive. During severe winters they seek forage at lower elevations in the national forests and lands outside the park.

Sometimes wolves are harassed and shot when they leave Yellowstone as well. As wolves mature, some will leave the pack and seek mates and new territories outside the park. Some wolves will harass and kill cattle. In these instances they are trapped or shot. We might consider restricting cattle around Yellowstone due to their undue negative effects on the Yellowstone Ecosystem. Wolves are keystone predators. Without wolves, there are a multitude of negative trophic cascades that propagate up and down the ecosystem affecting everything from beavers, eagles, ravens, grizzly bears, coyotes, song birds, and vegetation along steam banks.

A few other points to consider:

- Beef production is significant cause of destruction of the world's rainforests. In order to raise cattle large tracts of rain forest have been burned and cleared, affecting earth's biodiversity and its ability to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen.
- Much of world's grain harvest is used as feed for cattle instead of food for people. In a world where nearly a billion people lack enough food, is this the correct thing to do?
- The beef fast-food industry targets children in its marketing. As a result millions of children associate eating hamburgers at fast food restaurants as a fun, positive experience.

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- There may be correlations between eating excessive amounts of beef and atherosclerosis, cardiovascular diseases, colon and other cancers.

I don't think I'll stop eating beef completely. I don't have that much self control. However, I will think twice before selecting it, especially when there are other alternatives that I enjoy as well.

## Treasurer's Annual Report

Submitted by Bruce Hansen

<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	\$4,818.25
Rentals	\$8,300.00
Christmas Party	\$280.45
Pancake Breakfast	\$1,303.00
Note Card Sales	\$48.00
Art Show	\$711.00
General Donations	\$1,000.00
Interest	\$6.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,467.62</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Christmas Party	\$241.22
Pancake Breakfast	\$799.16
Timberlines	\$1,077.06
National Dues	\$5,232.94
Rental Returns	\$1,650.00
Building & Grounds	\$294.25
Building - Electrical	\$1,935.00
Snow Plowing	\$1,380.00
Insurance	\$1,631.00
Xcel Energy	\$770.93
CenterPoint Energy	\$1,012.14
Century Link	\$325.95
City of BP	\$541.80
Go Daddy	\$47.40
Waste Management	\$398.32
Walters	\$170.30
Speaker Fees	\$100.00
Art Show Fees	\$99.59
Stolen Art Show Cards	\$29.00
Bank Charges	\$52.00
Membership	\$176.00
Scholarship	\$82.94
Scout Troop #332	\$36.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,083.00</b>

Checking Balance 12/31/2011	\$6,975.69
Savings Balance 12/31/2011	\$18,062.43
Scholarship Endowment 21/31/2011 reported by Jim Arnold	\$43,846.78
Scholarship payments	\$2,750.00
Scholarship donations	\$1,000.00
Endowment donations	\$3,000.00
Christmas party silent auction	\$900.00

the rate of fire in the BWCA, and if the rate increases enough, the BWCA may become more savannah-like.

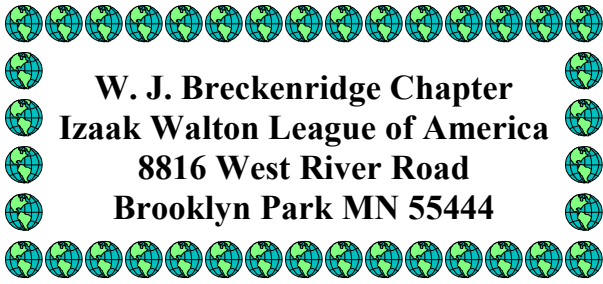
Lee Frelich discussed the future of the BWCA forest and how the use of fossil fuels is raising the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and consequently affects climate and global temperatures. In the last few years Dr. Frelich has presented and testified before governmental panels and agencies in both Minnesota and Washington DC in regards to the consequences of global climate change. If trends continue, and they are likely to continue, the climate of the BWCA may rise by an average of 13 degrees (F). Black spruce and several other tree species will no longer be able to survive in the BWCA. Canada lynx and moose will have to migrate north to survive and bobcat and whitetail deer will replace them. The timber wolf will continue to survive. In areas of deeper soils, hardwoods will flourish, and in areas of sandy or shallow soils the vegetation will be become more prairie like.

*The pdf file of this program is now accessible on our website at: [breckenridgeikes.org](http://breckenridgeikes.org)*

(Continued from page 1)

The pre-settlement fire regime in the BWCA burned over the forest about every 122 years. During periods of fire suppression, however, few fires were allowed to continue to burn. In recent years however, the BWCA fire regime is turning over the forest at a faster rate, every 35 – 100 years. A warming climate is expected to increase





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 Chapter Board of Directors."

**Carrol Henderson**  
**DNR Nongame Wildlife Program**  
March 27, 7:30 p.m.

We welcome Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife Program since 1977 as our speaker for the March 27 Social/Education meeting. Well-known for his books on wildlife, including *Woodworking for Wildlife*, *Landscaping for Wildlife*, *Wild About Birds: the DNR Bird Feeding Guide*, *The Traveler's Guide to Wildlife in Minnesota*, *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* and *Field Guide to the Wildlife of Costa Rica* and *Oology: Ralph's Talking Eggs*. Carrol will bring us up to date on the accomplishments of the Nongame Wildlife Program.

Mr. Henderson has been involved in planning and restoring peregrine falcons, bald eagles, eastern bluebirds, river otters and trumpeter swans. He and his wife Ethelle have led over 30 birding tours to Latin America since 1987, and he may touch on some of his travels at this meeting.

