



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

April / May 2013  
[www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)



### May

- 05 Pancake Breakfast 8:00-1:00
- 12 Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30 pm
- 21 Social Meeting 7:30

### June

- 10 6:00 PM- Breckenridge Chapter members have been invited to a combined meeting with the ABC Chapter of the League of Women Voters, at Andover City Hall, Senior Room, 1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW.
- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30
- 25 7:30 PM- Soc/Ed meeting will hope to be a follow up meeting of the June 10 meeting.

### July

- 09 Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30 pm
- 23 Soc/Ed meeting sponsored by Audubon. Subject: Cedar Creek Science Reserve. 7:30 PM

**May 21-7:30 PM Social/Ed meeting** will be one week before normal schedule and will feature Kevin Proescholdt, Conservation Director of "Wilderness Watch, national non-profit wilderness conservation organization. Kevin previously worked as the Wilderness and Public Lands Director for the IWLA for 8 years and as the Executive Director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness for 16 years. A former guide in the BWCAW, Kevin worked to help pass the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act through Congress, and was the lead author of *Troubled Waters: The Fight for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness*, the book that described that effort. He may have the book available at the meeting along with copies of their quarterly "Wilderness Watcher".

Kevin's program will focus on the work of Wilderness Watch, both nationally as well as with the BWCAW. Many people think that once Congress designates an area as Wilderness, then the area is protected forever. But this is not the case. Wilderness areas like the Boundary Waters require continual vigilance by conservationists to ensure their protection and proper stewardship. Wilderness Watch is the only national conservation organization focused solely on this role of fighting to protect the 110-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System and the individual areas like the BWCAW that make the wilderness system.

Kevin is a member of the Breckenridge Chapter.

## SOCIAL/ED PROGRAM

### June and July

**June 10**, 6:00 PM - Breckenridge Chapter members have been invited to a combined meeting with the ABC Chapter of the League of Women Voters, at Andover City Hall, Senior Room, 1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW. The presenter will be from the MN Environmental Quality Board. speaker (to be confirmed) will be Jeff Symser of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
Subject: Environmental Review to be conducted on the effects of Silica (frac) sand mining in SE Minnesota.

*\*\*\*For our June, July and August meetings we have invited the Minneapolis Audubon Society and the ABC Chapter of League of Women Voters to join us in joint meetings at our Chapter House. They will be responsible for some programs those months. Everyone is always welcome!*

**June 25**, 7:30 PM - Soc/Ed meeting will hope to be a follow up meeting of the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting by MN DIV Ikes on their trip to North Dakota to inspect some of the fracking mines there.

**July 23**, 7:30 PM - Soc/Ed meeting sponsored by Audubon. Subject: Cedar Creek Science Reserve. Presenter will tell us about the area (Anoka County), their research, areas that are open to the public and about various interesting species there, including the endangered Red Headed Woodpecker.

## Wood Duck Man

By Jim Arnold

Many thanks to **Dan Sherva** for his fine work in installing thirteen wood duck houses on



Banfill (Breck's) Island. Dan lives just a few blocks from the Chapter House and frequently visits the Chapter House grounds. This winter he and his brother, Dave, volunteered to place some hand made wood

duck houses on the island. In the past month Dan and Dave have made many visits in Dave's boat to place thirteen wood duck house on the west side of the island. Many are visible from the Chapter House. Is it just a coincidence that we're seeing and hearing more wood ducks this spring? I think Breck would be thrilled!

In addition to the wood duck houses on the island, Dan has made one more that will be a raffle item available at the pancake breakfast. **Thanks Dan**



## OPINION

### CATTLE GRAZING ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

At the March 18th Soc/Ed program Steve Chaplin, Senior Scientist for the Nature Conservancy gave a very informative and quite thorough talk on the new idea of allowing cattle grazing on Wildlife Management areas (WMA). Before his presentation many thought such a program might not be appropriate on our WMA's. I think some minds were changed as the program developed.

The main thrust of the program as I understand it was to keep down the expansion of breaking new land into ever increasing row crop acreage such as corn, soy beans, etc. Possibly even some poorly productive and erodible soil, existing cropland might be converted to WMA's if there were acceptable incentives offered land owners. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) benefits and similar programs are not enough of an incentive for farmers to enter these programs with the high prices of commodity crops. Therefore, if Environmental Conservationists want to see more prairie grasslands for benefit of wildlife it seems some better accommodations must be offered landowners.

The system would be to allow an appropriate amount of cattle to graze a certain amount of acreage for a specified short time. The idea is to graze the native plants in the area, as Buffalo did for specified short time which generally does not kill native plants. However, many exotics and woody plants are killed by repeated short term grazing. The timing of rotational, temporary grazing is Important.

If government, (the general public) cannot afford to pay farmers more than the going rate

for "set aside lands" then the opportunity to graze may give the going rate a profitable boost and competitive edge.

In theory, I believe this seems like a fairly good management tool to save our existing natural grasslands for wildlife, water, soil conservation and maybe for some forms of outdoor recreation.

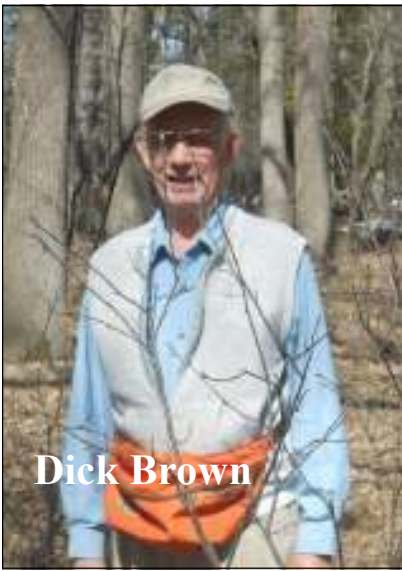
As I presently see it: PROS:

1. Retention and expansion of prairie lands for wildlife.
2. Better relations with farmers & ranchers.
3. Clean air and water filters and carbon retention
4. Probably no fertilizer or pesticide use.
5. Possible opportunities for outdoor recreation.
6. Relieving the cost of burning prairie lands periodically.
7. Halting erosion from rainfall and snowmelt.
8. Giving pollinators a whole season refuge (Bees- Butterflies, etc.)

CONS: 1. Possibly hard to regulate rotation timing accurately. 2. Depends on cooperation with other landowners for movement of cattle from area to area. 3. Periods of drought causing "reason" for overgrazing 4. Some hunters may find certain areas would not be best for hunting due to the rotation timing. However, this same area could be excellent another year due to reverse rotation. Some species thrive in a short grass area. 5. Reaction of some conservation groups, DNR and Legislators in future, according to their views. (mostly funding).

In theory I believe this could be a good workable program, but does seem complicated to implement. We should give it a try, in my opinion, then wait and see. Environmental Conservationists need to support what seems a reasonable experiment, but should also periodically check the outcomes.

**Dick Brown**



**Jim Arnold and Roger Williams**

**SHRUB PLANTING  
ALERT APRIL 27TH**



**Dell Erickson**



**Wes Hendrickson , John Fraley, Lane Mooney and  
Mark Gustafson**



**Dean Halonen**

**Roger Williams, Wes Hendrickson, Susan Ledray,  
John Fraley**

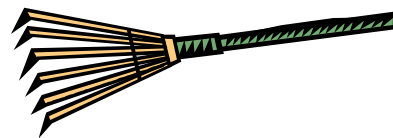
## **Shrub Planting Report**

**What a GREAT crew of workers to plant our 55 new shrubs on our Breckenridge property. They planted 10 Cranberry plants, 10 Hazelnut, 10 Arrowwood, 3 Witch Hazel, 6 Nannyberry, 10 Black chokeberry, 10 Juneberry and 6 Grey dogwood plants. Besides all this planting and digging, the yard was raked and many leaves picked up. Thank you to such a hard working group. The property looks so nice now.**

**A big Thank You to Dick Brown for organizing this great Project.**



**Larry Kennebeck**



**Barb Franklin and Linda Erickson**



**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
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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.”

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)  
May 21 Mona Geeting  
June 25  
Jul 25



**Thank you**

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