



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League August 2015

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

August

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Malcolm Mitchell,
Springbrook Nature Center's "Spring
Project"

September

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

October

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

August 25 Social/Educational meeting:

Springbrook Nature Center's "S.P.R.I.N.G Project"

Malcolm Mitchell, Chair of the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation in Coon Rapids, will give a history of the efforts to renovate and update the Springbrook Nature Center. He will then discuss the current and future plans for the Center and some information about financing the project.



**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of
the Izaak Walton League**

July 14, 2015

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

pollinators, including their essential contribution to our food supply.

IWLA Member Pledge: We strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, the wise stewardship of the land and its resources, to know the beauty and understanding of nature, and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space, to the preservation of this heritage, and to our sharing in it.

July 14.....Board of Directors Meeting
July 28.....Social/Educational Meeting
August 11.....Board of Directors Meeting
August 25.....Social/Educational Meeting

Attendees: Larry Kennebeck, Patrice Lindgren, Tim Johnson, Dick Brown, John Farley, Roger Williams

Events/Issues..... Dick/Larry/Jim
Social/Educational Meeting Speakers
July – Miranda Brandon, Photographic Artist
August – Malcolm Mitchell, from Springbrook Nature Center
September – ?

A discussion was had around how we could increase the number of attendees at our Social/Educational meetings. Are there other options for getting the word out on the speakers for our Social/Education, one suggestion was to advertise in the Sun papers.

A Proclamation City of Champlin “Proclaiming Champlin as a “Bee-Safe City”. The City of Champlin encourages city staff and residents to implement Bee-Save City Practices when practical, including:

Designating pollinator and bee friendly habitat property as “Bee-Safe Areas.”

Planting pesticide-free plants and seeds.
Refraining from using pesticides that harm bees and other pollinators.

Assisting in providing the public information about the benefits and needs of bees and all

Chapter House & Grounds..... Joe/Jim/Steve
Fireplace repair update – Work on the fireplace has not yet stated, but it is still slated to begin this month.

Kitchen remodel update – Demolition has been completed.

Driveway re-leveling – on hold

Down Tree – Tom Reid estimated cost to take down the tree and dispose of it is \$2,000. There is a slight chance we could be reimbursed for part of the cost by insurance, Jim will be following up with the insurance company.

Newsletter Marlys
No update was available at the time of this meeting.

Treasurer’s Report..... John
Update was given

Scholarships Jim
No update was available at the time of this meeting.

Webmaster Barb
No update was available at the time of this meeting.

Rentals..... Tim
No rentals will be scheduled for the month of August as we continue with the kitchen renovation.

Membership Lorraine
There were no changes or additions to our membership since June 9, 2015.

Chapter House Remodeling

We are still on target for an August 20th completion date for the kitchen remodel, major electrical update and bringing the Chapter House plumbing up to code.

- Demolition was completed last month
- Required plans and permits approved and received from City
- Kitchen properly vented
- Rough-in plumbing and electrical completed & are Code compliant.
- First stage of carpentry rough-in completed – new ceiling joist and front stub wall.
- Received and delivered to Chapter House as of today: appliances, stainless steel cabinet, sink and faucet
- Cabinets are being made

Over the next 2½ weeks flooring, drywall, cabinets & finish carpentry, finish plumbing and electrical will be done

The fireplace may not be completed for another 60 days due to the very busy schedule of AJ Spanjers – this should be OK due to the fact it is not wood burning time yet!

Below are a few basic pictures of the current project status:

- 1 Kitchen now properly vented
- 2 New stainless steel cabinet
- 3 New appliances staged in Chapter House



Joe Klohs, Remodeling Committee Chair

Errata. Apologies to Marlys Steiskal, who was not credited with taking the remodeling pictures in the July issue.

Treasured Places
Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs)
Dell Erickson

We hear about them yet seldom know much about them, nor have visited one. Thus, this would be a good opportunity to see some photos and learn something about SNAs.

Today, there are 161 SNAs, often small in size, with a combined total acreage of approximately 190,000 acres. There are about a dozen SNAs within an hour's drive of Minneapolis, including the Blaine Preserve twenty minutes north of Minneapolis and where these photographs were taken. Find the time to visit several of them; you'll be richly rewarded.



Rudbeckia Sunflower



Cross Leaf Milkwort



Monarch on Cylindric Blazing Star

SNA's can be visited anytime of the year; some however, will require a permit. These are natural areas in almost every sense of the word. Soft impact uses are encouraged –walking, snowshoeing, bird-watching, photography, or similar activities.

Do not expect modern conveniences, trails other than game trails, and there are no restrooms and often, parking lots! Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Camping, picnicking and swimming are not permitted, nor, in most cases, pets. Unfortunately, in my opinion, some SNAs permit hunting, trapping, and fishing.



Rough Blazing Star



False Foxglove



Purple Blazing Star

According to the SNA website, the program was created in 1969 to: "preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage, including landforms, fossil remains, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species, or other biotic features and geological formations, for scientific study and public edification as components of a healthy environment."

In that regard, the focus is on "prairie or peatlands with rare or endangered species; habitat for bird or animal concentrations; natural geologic formations and features; and plant communities undergoing succession". Saving our prairie lands is crucial. Of the original 18,000,000 prairie acres in Minnesota, today there are less than 235,000 remaining.

The SNA Program's goal "is to ensure that no single rare feature is lost from any region of the state". With 161 sites, there is much work to do.



Common Green Darner



Arrowhead



Dragonfly Sp.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are in sharp contrast to SNAs. Recognizing the economic advantages of natural areas, the legislature began the program earlier, in 1951. They are larger and more numerous. There are 1,440 WMAs covering 1.29 million acres. With great irony today, "save the wetlands" was its first initiative. WMAs are an integral part of Minnesota's recreation program. Their function is to provide state protected lands and waters for high impact activities, not ecology or education. These include wildlife and wildlife tourism, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other recreational uses. The similarity with SNAs is that they preserve lands for future use.

SNAs are different from most other natural areas because, as the name implies, education and research are vital; they are particularly useful for researching the Minnesota of 200 years ago. Studying "the effects of management practices on natural areas, without causing harm to existing species and habitats" is critical. These are important and scarce places!



Twisted Yellow Eye Grass

Reminding one of the CRP program, locations are acquired outright by purchase, gifts, conservation easements, and through dedication of state land. Approximately, 20 percent of SNAs are the result of dedication, notably in the northern part of the state. Matching grants from the Reinvest in Minnesota Program has resulted in many SNAs. The Nature Conservancy has provided the largest gifts. The Native Prairie Bank Program also is useful for acquisition of conservation easements.

Let's look at the Blaine Preserve SNA. It is in Blaine north of I-694 on I-35W at 95th Avenue North (Co Rd 52). It was commissioned by the DNR on June 27, 2011 and dedicated in 2013. When you visit, expect to wear long pants and old shoes because you'll be walking in wet areas and likely kneeling to see and photograph some beautiful and rare species. Bob Djupstom (former manager of the DNR SNA program), Tom Casey (Friends of MN SNA Board Chair), and Breckenridge Ikes Larry Kennebeck, Tim Johnson, my wife Linda and I visited the site Wednesday July 29th.

63-acres small, the DNR says the Blaine Preserve, "contains the best remaining example of a vast complex of wet prairies and rich fens that existed in" about 1850. "The site contains 13 species of rare plants (7 of which are state-endangered, 4 MN-threatened and 2 MN-special concern) and fully 12% of the species that comprise Minnesota's native flora, some of which have not been documented in the state in 100 years."

Because of the variety, one can find different plants flowering in every month from mid-April to mid-September. The purple flowers of the Prairie Blazing Star or Gayfeathers (*Liatris pycnostachya*) are now spectacular (see photo).

Is it threatened? As is every natural area in the state, population growth and development places them at risk. These water based fens and similar locations are especially vulnerable to development because when regional and adjacent areas are developed, it reduces above and below ground water sources. Agriculture's use of fossil water by wells also lowers water tables.

It's circular; wetlands made development impossible or expensive. However, once development starts water is reduced, wetlands are continually diminished and are increasingly developed. Each gallon removed increases the ease and lowers the costs of development. Seldom understood, except by development interests (and legislators), at the same time developments remove other and further areas from the language and definitions of protecting legislation.

Just a few minutes north is the Blaine Airport Rich Fen SNA; all 48 acres of it by the airport! It is critical in that it has "two state-endangered species, the lance-leaved violet and tubercled rein-orchid, as well as a special concern species, the marginated rush". It also has native oak woodlands, wet meadows, emergent marsh, willow swamp and rich fen communities. A permit is required.

Scientific and Natural Areas mirror everything the Ikes stand for. Visit them, delight in their substance and spirit, and encourage the state to provide many more of these special areas.



THOMPSON'S TAKE

7/9/2015

The other day I was out in my "shop" and I decided to let in some light and fresh air. So I rolled open the door and in the stuff came. But, the light and fresh air was not alone. I watched a small flood of small-ish insects crawling in across the concrete floor heading for I know not where. I did know I was having no part of it. So I commenced to do my "Injun dance" (without drums) and stomped the blazes out of a bunch of them. Actually I got them all. I was pretty proud of my gymnastics. Pretty frisky for an old goat. It didn't take long to figure out what they were. I've actually known about them from pictures in bug books since I was a kid. They were **earwigs!** I first ran across them a bunch of years ago at my brother's house in Milwaukee. They had a lot of them one summer and while they were all over his yard and some in the house they weren't any *real* problem. Well, anyway, fast-forward a couple days and on this day I happen to be in the bathroom when I see a small creature stumbling across the carpet. I grabbed a piece of toilet paper and picked it up. I looked at it and NUTS!!, another earwig!! I didn't get all that lathered up at seeing them in my shop but in the house, well, that's another matter. Now I figure it's time to learn a bit more about these rascals and what to do about them. So, off to the computer I go and brought up the U. of MN, Extension web pages in search of some info. Earwig, it turns out was a name given to them back in the days of yore. An old European myth has it that the beasts crawled in peoples ears at night while sleeping. The story goes further and suggests they actually burrowed into peoples brains and laid eggs. Swell! There actually *have* been a few rare cases where earwigs have been found in peoples ears but the Extension people wanted the readers to know that really, entering ones ear, is *not going to happen*. So, OK, I am not going to worry about *that* anymore.

Well then, what shall I worry about? Mostly earwigs are a nuisance thing. They prefer to be nocturnal. During the day they hide in dampish places under leaves and mulch, potted plants, welcome mats, and other things like pavers and bricks of patios, etc., and in my case, my shop door, the bottom of which is close to the ground. Their principle lunch is dead things (they are mostly scavengers), plants, and certain other small organisms. While they can be a plant pest problem, unless they are in great abundance, usually not.

They are usually a dark brown and smallish, about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long (about like the row of stars next to the picture). The one pictured is about 3X real size. They distinguish themselves by possessing a large set of pincers from their **tail** end. The pincers are curved and formidable-looking in males but straight in females. They can get ahold of you if you let them but they usually don't hurt. The pincers are used for grabbing prey and mating purposes and ... are used to tuck away their wings should they decide to fly, which is rare.

Earwigs probably showed up in this country in the early 1900's. They first became noticeable in Wisconsin in the early 80's (my brother's place?) and in the 90's in Minnesota. Otherwise, the common one is a native of Europe.

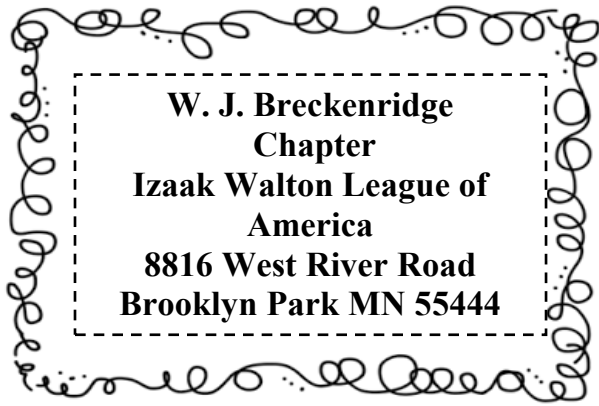
To keep them out of your house keep the out side area free of the kinds of things they like to hide in as mentioned above. They are thin flat things so prudent caulking around foundations, windows and doors will help because they can squeak into some pretty narrow places. Keep vegetation and mulches away from foundations. But, the bottom line is, if they are in your neighborhood they are going to get into your house. The UM Extension people say when they do get in just vacuum them up. So there ... earwigs! Something else to worry about if you are running short of such material.

Me? I gotta go vacuum.

Hmmm ... my ear itches.

Well, all right, then ...NFT





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

August 25 Audubon
September 22 ?
October ?

Thank you 

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