



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League December 2015

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

December

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
No Social meeting this month

January 2016

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
23 set up for Holiday party
24 Holiday Party

March

- 09 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
23 Social/Educational Meeting

OUR HOUSE IS FOR RENT

Check out our reasonable rates at
<http://www.breckenridgeikes.org/rentals.html>

For availability, please contact Tim Johnson by calling the Chapter House at 763-561-5364 (and leave a message.)

a bit of history

About the W. J. Breckenridge Chapter

The Chapter was founded on the banks of the Mississippi just north of Minneapolis in 1932. Its first significant undertaking was halting a drainage project along the river. The Chapter House was built largely by volunteers four years later. Its fireplace contains stones from each of the 48 states in the Union at that time. The entire four acres around the chapter house remain in a natural state. In 1996 the name of the chapter was changed to the "Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter." The Chapter House building and grounds are recognized as historically significant to the area. The Breckenridge Chapter purchased the island behind the chapter house from the University of Minnesota for \$100.



**Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter
of the Izaak Walton League
November 10, 2015
Board of Directors Meeting Notes**

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.

November 10th ...Board of Directors Meeting
November 24thSocial/Educational Meeting
December 8thBoard of Directors Meeting

Attendees: Steve Schaust, Larry Kennebeck, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Tim Johnson, Barbara Franklin, Wes Hendrickson **Guest:** Sarah Casper; Marlys Carls-Steiskal

Events/Issues.....Dick/Larry/Jim
Social/Education Meeting Speakers
November – Jennifer DeJournett, District 2 Representative for Three Rivers Park District and Ann Rexine, Principal Planner for Three Rivers Park District.
December – No Social/Ed meeting
Holiday Party, January 23rd for has been scheduled for set up, and the party being held January 24th. We will once again hold a silent auction and we are in the process of arranging entertainment.
Solar Garden – Sarah Casper, Residential Field Manager with SunShare. For those that roof installation of solar panels is not an option there is now an option to participate in a solar garden. A *Solar Garden* is a community shared *solar* array with grid-connected subscribers. Homes and businesses, even if shaded by trees, receive a

bill credit as if the panels were on their own roof using “virtual net metering”. Home owners that sign up for the service receive Excel Community Solar credits. We will be forming a small group of members to gather additional information and Tim Johnson will be the chair.

Chapter House & GroundsJoe/Jim/Steve
Fireplace repair update – We have had a recommendation for repair of the damper and fireplace door, we are just waiting on the cost estimate.
Building and Grounds committee still need to meet and put together our list of projects for considerations.
Chapter House street sign light is no longer working and needs to be addressed. Calls have been made to a solar company on getting an estimate on replacing the light.
Repair rotting steps on the river walk need to be replaced.

Newsletter Marlys
The article and pictures on the buckthorn removal project that was held the end of October was greatly appreciated. It was suggested that we assign someone to write a review on the Social/Education meeting. Please consider submitting articles for our newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report John
Update was given.

Scholarships Jim
The Board discussed using the funds from the holiday silent auction, to either increase the amount or number of recipients for 2016.

Webmaster Barb
No updates at this time.

RentalsTim
10 Rentals for December.

Membership.....Lorraine



Save the Date:
JWLA Breckenridge Chapter



Speaker
Stan Fekiela

Sunday, January 24, 2016
4 – 6 pm
Details to follow

Visit us on facebook or breckenridgeikes.org

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park:
Master Plan

[Español](#) | [Soomaaliga](#) | [Hmoob](#)

Three Rivers Park District and the City of Brooklyn Park are developing a joint master plan for [Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park](#) and the Brooklyn Park Environmental Nature Area. A master plan lays out the long-term plan for the park and includes identifying future recreation development, natural and cultural resource protection goals, and associated costs. Development of a master plan includes an extensive public engagement process which allows community members to participate in shaping the park's vision and development concept.

Visit crd.mysidewalk.com to learn more, see upcoming public engagement events, and share your ideas. Project comments may also submitted



OPINION

kes and Land Stewardship Project Meeting, Partial Account

There was a combined meeting of these organizations at our Chapterhouse on Monday, Nov. 9. A mix of MN DIV and Breckenridge Ikes along with several from Land Stewardship (LSP) and a McKnight Foundation representative.

Presenters were John Sisser from IWLA National Midwest Office and Tom Neusmeir, LSP. The LSP organization focuses on farm operations and intends to improve practices that protect farm land and general water quality. The Ikes have a program for the same issues.

Many subjects pertaining to land and water quality were discussed. Some were: (a) Park Rapids area potato farming involving clearing the surrounding area of primarily Jack Pine-Oak forests, and depleting and polluting the groundwater source through irrigation in that very porous sandy land area. (b) Government Crop Insurance was the largest and most complicated subject, and worthy of further understanding. The Crop Insurance Program is largely responsible for the CRP Program being depleted from about 40 million acres to around 25 million acres.

Subsidies and the link with crop insurance weakening Sod Buster and Swamp Buster rules were discussed. There seems to be no way to monitor compliance with these existing programs. Nutrient Management plans including Buffer zones, etc. were discussed. It was emphasized that Government Programs should not interfere with conservation practices as they do now. How crop insurance intensifies lack of diversity, encouraging row crops sends most dollars to large farmers and how taxpayers pay about 62% of the premiums was all discussed, plus much more. The program lasted from 12:30-3:00 PM. A free lunch was served from our new kitchen. More of us should have been there! These important, complicated issues are hard to



In October Chapter members heard about the West Mississippi River Regional Trail from Sarah Evenson a landscape architect/planner of Hoisington Koeqler Group, Inc <http://www.hkqi.com>.

Members heard about and provided feedback to the year long process, *to be complete in Spring 2016*, about the opportunities this trail along the river would bring. More info at <http://www.threerivertrails.com/west-mississippi-river-main.php>

Mountain Dew Apple Dumplings

Ingredients:

2 (8 count) cans crescent rolls

3-4 tart apples

1 1/2 cups brown sugar

1/2 C butter

1 t cinnamon

1 (12 oz) can Mountain Dew soda (I used sprite)

Directions:

Spray a 13X9 baking dish or pan

Peel and slice apples into 16 pieces

Roll each apple slice in 1 section of crescent roll.

Placed rolled slices in pan in two rows, put extra along side

Melt butter, add sugar and cinnamon and pour over apples

Pour can of Mountain Dew over all

Bake at 350 for 45 minutes

**OPINION--
CHAMPLIN MILL POND-
CAUTION ON DREDGING/
CLEANUP**

Wildlife diversity is limited in most city parks; however there is limited diversity in most, only it is of an "Urban Kind". Parks vary from terrestrial habitats to aquatic habitats and some vary with woodlands, marshes and a newer concept of prairie areas.

The City of Champlin is rather unique being on the banks of the Mississippi and engulfing a large share of Elm Creek Park Reserve. Elm Creek bisects the City nearly in half, essentially dividing the older part of town from the newer. The Champlin Mill Pond, the terminus of Elm Creek just before it gushes over the Dam into the Mississippi, is divided by past highway construction in 3 parts: the upper is quite shallow; the center is shallow and considerably smaller. The lower is somewhat deeper and considered the "main pond" by many. We have lived on the lower pond for 70 years. There have been vast detrimental changes to the ecosystem of the pond and creek within the City during this time.

Few persons, whether residents or municipal officials of Champlin realize the wildlife diversity that does exist on the combined ponds. Our knowledge of this is fairly extensive on the "Lower Pond" as our home is about 30 ft. from the water's edge. (This was not illegal in 1950). My concern with the proposed dredging of the Pond (supposedly all 3 parts) is the possible destruction of the present wildlife diversity and intensity. The idea of dredging is to create a first class fishery and clean up the congestion of an over prolific weed situation. This is a noble effort as long as it does not destroy existing wildlife habitat! Certain areas need to be shallow and somewhat weedy. Islands need to be created and left in a natural state. Shorelines should be managed by the City and shoreline residents in a more natural state. These can be called Buffer Zones.

The shoreline on our side of the lower pond is rather extensive and comprises perhaps around

800 ft. There is also a natural shore, City owned, from our property to the Dam. This combined shoreline has been managed at least 90% natural for 70 years. As a result, along with our 13 Wood Duck houses, there have been flocks up to 100 Wood Ducks feeding on acorns and shelled corn, 2 or more times a day during August and into the first week of November. In late October they tend to disappear in small groups for the Southland. Only one City Council member and a handful of friends have witnessed this amazing natural wonder to date. The wildlife extravaganza cannot be witnessed from the opposite shore due to low hanging branches, woody debris and partially submerged logs. This area is a summer home to many species. Imagine: a Kingfisher or a Black-Crowned Night Heron perched on overhanging and perhaps dead branches; Blue Herons and Green Backed Herons stand on logs and low branches; Turtles of 2 species bask on logs half submerged. Bald Eagles often perch on large trees or dead branches, high up. Trumpeter Swans are seen frequently if there are no people present. During migration other species of Ducks visit for a few days fattening up for their trip North or South. Seagulls use the pond all summer and Killdeers often visit the shore. Without constructing islands with shallow surrounding shores, and private property owners installing more natural shorelines, the dredging and "cleanup" of the ponds will diminish the habitat of many species. Even though Champlin has part of Elm Creek Park within its borders, Oxbow Park in a natural state and about 1/2 of Galloway Park in a natural state, the fact is most wildlife is beleaguered by the loss of habitat. Most iconic and other species have a hard time coping with the presence of Mankind. We can aid their plight by not "urbanizing" too much on the Mill Pond. While creating a worthy fishery, let's not destroy the wildlife that exists. All the land we have managed to preserve for Wildlife is but a fraction of what was, before human intervention. Champlin Council and residents have a chance to create a balanced ecosystem with the future Mill Pond; as fine and well balanced as an Urban Park and area can be.

OPINION ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: TO CRY, LAUGH OR DISTAIN

Many times a day we hear or read about environmental problems. We also hear about problems with our infrastructures not meeting our future needs. Highways, bridges, transit, sewer, water, schools, and public buildings; all need expanding and maintenance for the upcoming population growth predicted. Also we have dwindling polluted waters, air pollution, climate change, invasive land and water species. We need to reduce our addiction to coal, petroleum and gas as much as possible by installing solar and wind power, but to change over effectively we must mine for copper, aluminum and other metals that go into these facilities! (Poly-Met?) There will be the same metals mining for solar, plus the need to mine Silicone Sand for glass. Meanwhile there is other mining and extraction caused by human consumption: Petroleum for bituminous roads and parking lots; gas for nitrogen fertilizer; potash and phosphorus; limestone for athletic fields, trails and acidic farm fields; gravel and cement for construction and highways, etc. All mining leaves an environmental disturbance. Incidentally wind power is hard on birds and scenery. Solar on a large enough scale to eliminate fossil fuels will encompass thousands of acres of land used by wildlife and agriculture. We grow more and more row crops to feed our expanding population. We export agricultural products to keep overpopulated nations from starving; thereby depleting U.S. soils, causing more need for fertilizers and pesticides and continued draining and clearing of land.

We threaten wildlife habitats and territories by: over harvest of forests; polluting fresh and salt water estuaries; over develop forested areas, lake shores, sea coasts, prairies, deserts and just about every wildlife habituaries there are. Environmental problems blare out at us every day from the Medias. However, even the environmental/conservation community in general cannot focus on the most important problem or the most basic of long term solutions. By our actions we cause needless and immoral

extinctions of species that have every right to exist and most of us do not even realize it or believe it is a problem.

Short term solutions involving technology and consumption restraint are necessary to start, but will only slow the acceleration of damage. The most important long term solution has to be reduction of the total human population and development of our Nation. There are those who claim "Sustainable Development" is the answer. However some maintain that is an "oxy-moron", that any development in the long run is unsustainable. This may interfere with expansion of our economic development but eventually may be the salvation of other species-and our own. To take effect this basic part of the solution may take 100-200 years or more, if it can be accomplished at all. But we should start now!

Sadly, the majority of my environmental / conservationist friends and associates probably don't tend to agree with these following assumptions, however many Demographers do: 1. Strive to reduce our Nation's population by perhaps up to 50% in the next 100-200 years; 2. Educate people to reduce consumption. This will be more likely accomplished with a weaker economy; 3. Halt net immigration immediately, the greatest reason of our increase in population, or the chance to reduce it; 4. Incentives for fewer child births should be instigated by Government and responsible organizations interested in a sustainable Nation; 5. Gradually halt exports of agricultural products. Nations that cannot feed their people are overpopulated and should embark on solving their own population problems. Many will not agree. Because of this real Environmentalists and conservationists interested in the preservation of our Natural Heritage can be brought to tears. Often I am tempted to laugh at their lack of understanding. However, I am more naturally inclined to distain their poor grasp of the situation. We must quit being "politically correct" and face the future with honesty and affective action. Of this I have little hope. Maybe some next generation will, if not too late!

Was it Pogo of the comics who said in 1970 or 80's about the degrading environment. "We have met the enemy- and they are us." And us still are!

Kitchen Appreciation celebration



Left to right: Joe Kloth Chairman of the committee, Mark Dickmeyer, Brad Larson, both from BJ Larson Remodeling, Rich Schmidt owner of Schmidt Painting And Decorating, John Stock owner of John Stock Custom Cabinets, Mike Manthe, Retired Industrial Arts Teacher, Brian Hipsag owner of Hipsag Electric.

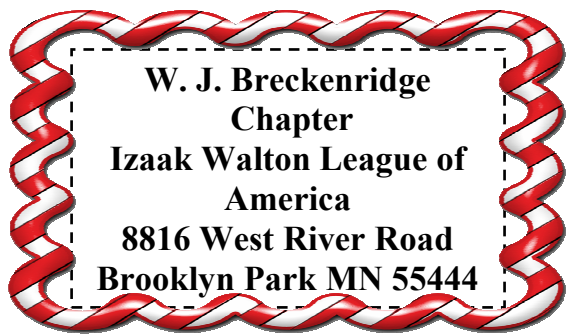
An appreciation dinner was held on Sunday, November 29 to thank the contractors, the kitchen task force members and chapter board members who helped design, wire, plumb, frame, sheet rock, paint, lay flooring, make and install cabinets and many many other jobs in order to make our new chapter house kitchen a reality.

In just a few short months the project was completed-- the year 2015 will long be remembered as the year the bright lights went on in the kitchen .

We are grateful for the skills and hard work of so many, to help complete this project, on time and under budget!

If you would like to assist with other task force committee work in the future, please contact Jim Arnold or Joe Klohs.





If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to

Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **EditorBreckIWL@msn.com**

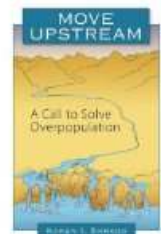
Deadline is the last day of each month.

“All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Breckenridge Board of directors.”

Move Upstream: a Call to Solve Overpopulation

by Karen I. Shragg

Karen Shragg is a naturalist, writer and overpopulation activist pedagogy and director of the Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield. She joined the advisory board of World Population Balance in 2004. Karen holds an Ed.D. from the University of St. Thomas in critical. Her new book hits the nail on the head when it comes to overpopulation and I recommend it to anyone concerned with our burgeoning problem.



This customer review from Amazon is spot on:

“This amazing book connects so many local, national and international problems and societal concerns with a single root cause; an over abundance of people. It is shocking to realize the world population has grown from 2 billion to 7.2 billion during the lifetime of an 80 year-old! When people must fight for their share of resources for survival, it creates an entirely different society from one where their basic needs are easily met. The resulting poverty and strife eliminates any hope of achieving peace, higher education, and a quality, sustainable environment. The author effectively calls out many leading environmental, religious and political groups for their misplaced efforts and lack of integrity to include overpopulation as a priority issue. A must reading for anyone who cares about a better life for their kids.”

Copies are available from Amazon.com or I have several copies (\$16) if you would like one, too.
Barb Franklin