

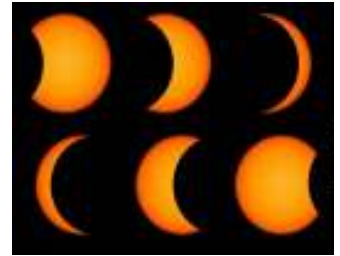


# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League

August 2017

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



Partial Solar Eclipse  
August 21

## COMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Coon Rapids River Fest 1-5 pm  
(see details p. 4)
- 21 Partial Solar Eclipse 11:43 am-2:29 pm
- 22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Mississippi Watershed Management  
Organization Executive Director, Doug  
Snyder

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

### OCTOBER

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

### Social/Educational Meeting:

**Tuesday, August 22**

### Metropolitan Water Planning Program

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Executive Director, Doug Snyder will speak on metropolitan water planning, funding, and projects and initiatives. Doug's interest in water resources began at the University of Minnesota as a graduate student in landscape architecture. He participated in several multi-disciplinary research projects at College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Center for Urban and Regional Affairs regarding the use and management the Boundary Waters and St. Croix River. Doug has worked in water resource management in various capacities for the last 25 years. He started at the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); first creating a metro region GIS wetland assessment tool, then as a Planner, and finally as a Board Conservationist. As the Executive Director of Mississippi Watershed Management Organization since 2002, Doug serves as principal administrator for the organization. He is responsible for the implementation of the watershed policies, standards, projects, and initiatives as set forth by the MWMO Board of Commissioners in the watershed management plan, joint and cooperative agreement, and bylaws.

This program is co-sponsored by the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The public is also invited to join us for this joint social/educational meeting of the Izaak Walton League on Tuesday, August 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. For more information call 763-421-6781.

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

July 11, 2017

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Before the meeting began the group gathered to look at a beautiful oak coffee table brought to the meeting by Dick Brown courtesy of Dick's son and the City of Champlin. Dick asked if we should keep it in the Chapter House. The answer was a unanimous yes. Steve and Tim carried it in with minimal help from the other members present. Ask Dick about the history of this beautiful piece of wood.

The meeting was called to order by Steve. A quorum (just barely) was present: Steve, Karen, Jim, Dick, Tim and Larry. Jim volunteered to record minutes.

**IWLA Board:**

Steve reminded the group that we are still short two board members and do not have a secretary. At this time no one has contacted Vice President Larry Kennebeck (763 533 5856) to express interest.

**Issues:** Dick

- League of Women Voters will hold a meeting on water quality concerns on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 p.m. at Anoka Ramsey Community College.
- New bluebird houses have replaced the old ones on the 12 poles the Chapter maintains at Oxbow Park.
- Our Chapter may get involved with a prairie restoration project at Galloway Park in Champlin. Dick will be talking to city officials.

**Chapter House and Grounds:**

- Dick has sprayed a second round of weed killer in the area near the driveway entrance where a garden will be planted.
- Tim asked that we consider taking down a large basswood tree on the river bank that has been undercut by erosion and appears likely to take down more of our river trail. The board voted to ask Tom Reid to consider dropping the tree. Jim will contact Tom.

**Water Quality Meeting**

Did you know 40% of surface water in the state of Minnesota is impaired? The League of Women Voters has asked the Breckenridge Chapter to co-sponsor the 25 x 25 water quality (25% improvement by 2025) meeting to be held August 29<sup>th</sup> at Anoka Ramsey Community College from 7-9:00 p.m. The Anoka Conservation District, the Anoka County Water Council and ARCC are partners with the Upper Mississippi River Region of the League of Women Voters in presenting this Governor Dayton-sponsored 25 x 25 water council community meeting. Our Chapter will provide at least one facilitator that evening to help guide discussions. Table facilitators will encourage participants to list their water concerns and then prioritize issues from their tables. Please join us August 29<sup>th</sup> and share your concerns and ideas.

Information about the Governor's 25 x 25 meetings is at: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/25by25>.

# Rusty Patched Bumblebee

by Larry Kennebeck



The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, once common, now a federally endangered species

## Background

A meeting was held at the US Fish and Wildlife service (FWS) office, located at 4101 American Blvd in Bloomington on June 29. The purpose was for the local FWS to appraise various conservation groups on the new federally endangered species, the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (Rusty Patch). The FWS also asked how the attendee groups could support conservation of the Rusty Patch.

The listing documents, the biology, habitat requirements, and conservation ideas were reviewed among the following attendees;

Peter Fasbender - FWS

Jill Utrup - FWS

Colette Adkins - Center for Biological Diversity

Tom Casey - Friends of the Mn Scientific and Natural Areas

Tim Culver - Mn Center for Environmental Advocacy

Larry Kennebeck - Izaak Walton League

## Biology and Habitat

The Rusty Patch was listed as endangered, federally, on January 11, 2017. It is a pollinator whose range formerly extended from the east coast through the Midwest and into southern Canada. It has largely been extirpated from agriculture land. It can no longer survive there for unknown reasons, except in large, high quality, areas of wild plants. Requiring diverse and abundant wild flowers from late March to October, the Rust Patch is now occasionally found in some high quality prairies

with adjoining wetlands but mostly in suburban back yards, such as in the Twin Cities area. It is also currently found from Indiana to Minnesota. Some unknown killing factor precludes its viability in agriculture land yet it survives principally in metro areas.

In spring the new queen comes out of hibernation and needs early spring wild plants that produce nectar and pollen. She builds a nest (often in an existing rodent cavity in undisturbed ground) to lay eggs. Worker and male bees hatch and forage for the colony members, numbering up to 200, throughout summer and within a 1/4 mile radius. In the fall the new queens mate and then the workers, males, the old queen dies off. The new queens leave the colony to a distance of 6 miles to overwinter.

Bumble bees are among the most important pollinators of crops such as blueberries, cranberries, and clover and almost the only insect pollinators of tomatoes. Bumble bees are more effective pollinators than honey bees for some crops because of their ability to “buzz pollinate.”

The public is aware that bees can sting but primarily honey bees and wasps (wasps are not bees) sting people occasionally. It is useful to note that wild bees, like the Rusty Patch, seldom, if ever, sting people.

## Protection Initiatives

Research on the Rusty Patch is being conducted by Elaine Evans at the U of M, the U of W, and a few other locations around the country, to hopefully allow for future protection efforts for the bee. A principle effort is monitoring the impacts of GMO crops and certain pesticides on pollinators.

Establishing new, and maintain existing, high quality prairies, such as SNA's that are near water, especially in the 7 county metro area.

Promote planting of high quality wild flowers that last a full season should be encouraged for homeowners, businesses, governments, and others. For more information on attracting native pollinators, visit

[www.fws.gov/pollinators/pdfs/PollinatorBookletFinalrevWeb.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/pdfs/PollinatorBookletFinalrevWeb.pdf).

The local FWS will sponsor events such as pollinator day, educate school children, and support Citizen Science Groups. Unfortunately their

manpower and budget are too low to sponsor research or major events.

The local FWS will survey federal development sites, such as new roads and new or existing federal refuges, parks, monuments, etc., in Minnesota in an attempt to protect and expand the Rusty Patch.

Observe bees for the Rusty Patch which looks the picture in the fact sheet; <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/factsheetrpbb.html>. Report any Rusty Patch you find to The Bumblebee Watch; <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>. They gather baseline data about the distribution and abundance of North America's bumble bees. Historical data will be used to target conservation efforts. Bumble Bee Watch is a citizen science project through the partnership of [The Xerces Society](#), [the University of Ottawa](#), [Wildlife Preservation Canada](#), [BeeSpotter](#), [The Natural History Museum, London](#), and [the Montreal Insectarium](#).

Do campaigns to save the monarch as well as bees fit in with saving the Rusty Patch?

The monarch butterfly and bee pollinators probably use some of the same wild forage plants that the Rusty Patch does. There is sort of a public outcry to save the monarchs and bees, including the planting of monarch and bee friendly flowers.

It is conceivable that saving the Rusty Patch will add to the crescendo of public interest in nature and conservation, which may result in saving it and other pollinators.

Larry Kennebeck  
7/1/2017



## Coon Rapids River Fest 2017

Hosted by [Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park of Three Rivers Park District](#)

Join us on Saturday, August 12 for our 2nd Annual River Fest! Celebrate the mighty Mississippi River by trying fishing, getting your face painted, giving archery a try, collecting critters along the shore, creating river-inspired art, borrowing our bikes for a quick trip across the dam, and more. Best of all, it's FREE! So bring your family, bring your friends, and drop in any time.

We do also have the opportunity to try a quick rafting trip to the other side of the park and then try an activity on the walk back to RiverFest. To do the rafting trip, you need to pre-register, and it is \$5 per person, ages 6+. You can register at one of these three links:

[bit.ly/2tubjET](http://bit.ly/2tubjET) (1:15pm-2:00pm)

[bit.ly/2stDvXu](http://bit.ly/2stDvXu) (2:15pm-3:00pm)

[bit.ly/2tVHtw7](http://bit.ly/2tVHtw7) (3:15pm-4:00pm)



## Champlin Mill Pond

*The following letter was written by Dick Brown and sent on behalf of the eight homes on the Elm Creek Oxbow (Champlin) in support of good water quality practices for the Mill Pond and ultimately the Mississippi River.*

July 26, 2017

TO: Mayor Ryan Karasek and Champlin City Council

SUBJECT: Concerning the future of the Oxbow in Elm Creek adjacent to the Champlin Mill Pond, below Cartway Road

In the year 2015 the Champlin Mill Pond (Elm Creek) was drained for over an entire year to construct a new dam at its outlet to the Mississippi River. Unseen consequences occurred when the new dam was closed to retain water levels in 2016. A different kind of vegetation emerged from what was before; mainly an exceedingly thick growth of Cattails.

The new vegetation made little difference on the lower Pond. However, the central pond and the upper Pond experienced rampant growth of mainly Cattails and persisted throughout year 2017. This kind of vegetation, nor its tremendous proliferation, was never evident before the drawdown. This problem on the Pond is to be alleviated in 2017-18 by dredging. However, adjacent to the Pond on the upstream side and about ½ block east of Cartway Road, the Oxbow there suffers similar consequences as the Pond from drawdown – a new and prolific weed growth.

We believe remedying the excessive weed growth on the Pond by dredging should be extended to the Oxbow. We believe the eight homes on the Oxbow should have their problem alleviated at the same time that dredging of the Pond takes place.

Combining the two projects as one would be more economical than if they were done separately.

Part of the purpose of dredging the Pond is to remove sediments from many years of upstream construction and nutrients of Phosphates and Nitrates accumulated from lawn fertilizing and farming practices. These same elements if left in the Oxbow will continue to leach into and affect the Pond downstream in the future.

Clearing the Oxbow will improve habitat for fish, wildlife, local residents and the general public's use of the waterway, canoeing and kayaking.

Therefore: Breckenridge Chapter, Izaak Walton League, Board of Directors asks that: The City of Champlin seek funding and support to clear the Oxbow of excess debris and nutrients for the improvement of this public waterway system.

Steve Schaust, President  
IWLA of America, Breckenridge Chapter,  
8816 West River Rd., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

## Bird Lore in the Comics

*Each of these characters was played in the comics or cartoons by a talented avian actor. See if you know the bird species or family each of these characters is from. If you get more than six you were probably born before 1970.*

- 1) Woodstock
- 2) Uncle Scrooge
- 3) Chilly Willy
- 4) Woody (species)
- 5) Howland
- 6) Spy vs. Spy
- 7) Foghorn
- 8) Tweety
- 9) Beaky
- 10) Baby Huey
- 11) Wiley's anticipated lunch (Velocitous incredbilous)
- 12) Daffy

*Answers next month.....  
Barbara Franklin, guest editor*

## The Chapter Still Needs New Board Members

Our Chapter By-laws state that we should have four officers and nine board members. The recent resignation of Secretary Patrice Lindgren has left us one board member and an officer short of the thirteen members our by-laws suggest. Patrice has been a valuable member of our board, but the longer drive created by a recent move and grandparent duties have made it necessary for her to resign. Hopefully Patrice will still find time to attend an occasional meeting.

If you can help us out please contact Vice President Larry Kennebeck (763 533 5856) or another board member.

The main tasks of a board member are to attend board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and participate in decisions regarding our Chapter's position on conservation issues, Chapter House and Grounds, educational programs, finances, etc. Board members are occasionally asked to serve on committees that make recommendations to the board.

### **Chapter House Rental Rates\***

Non-Members: (damage deposit: \$300.00; \$200 for previous renters)

Monday through Thursday \$275.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays....\$350.00

Members:(damage deposit \$100.00)

Monday through Thursday .....\$125.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays...\$175.00

Boy Scouts:(damage deposit \$50.00)

Overnights.....\$50.00\*

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

Rental Chairperson:

Tim Johnson (leave messages at 763-561-5364)

(By permission of the Owatonna Ikes' Savannah View and Nels Thompson, author)



### THOMPSON'S TAKE

03/23/17



M & I took a "flying" trip to Grand Island, Nebraska in the middle of March. It was a long ride but we left early and got there in the middle of the afternoon. The goal was to catch the migration flight of the Sand Hill Crane. **Did we catch it!**

Turns out there are two organizations out there dedicated to the preservation of the Platte River and riparian area. The riparian area is basically the shore line and adjacent land to the river. The preservation of that habitat is primarily focused on enhancing the migration of the cranes. Cranes have been stopping over in that area to rest for thousands of years. They come up from as far south as Texas and Mexico, hang out in the river channel for a month or so to fatten up, and then continue the rest of the trip into northern U.S., Canada, and Alaska. Some even cross over into Russia for the summer. When mating and the raising of young is over they start back, basically over the same ground. There is no prolonged stay-over in the fall, however, as the southward movement is less stressful. Summer has produced a nice supply of food along the way. Plus, as the young are now with them, the adults tend to take their time as the young are not strong enough to make long dashes to a sanctuary site.

The wintering experience plus the flight up from Texas, etc. brings the birds to the Platte river averaging around 5 pounds each. By the time they leave the Platte River area they have fluffed up to nearly 8 pounds. What do they feed on? Waste corn from the fall harvest, mainly. But they also eat mice, frogs, bugs, and all manner of small mammals and critters. They are actually quite catholic in their diet, eating almost anything they find or catch, including small snakes and probably other birds and nestlings when available.

Back to that waste grain thing for a bit. Studies have been done and show that the cranes pick up about 5 pounds of corn each spring. The last few years have the estimates at about 700,000 cranes in the area during migration. That many birds times the 5 pounds they eat equilivates to 1,750 tons of corn! Remember now, that is waste grain they get. At 56# / bushel we arrive at 62,500 bushels of grain. At \$3.34 / bushel they are eating up **\$208,750** worth of grain. Good thing they find the waste! It would be pretty tough to find some one or some group to come up with that kind of money for crane charity.

And money is a scarce commodity for the project of maintaining the river in a way that is useful for the cranes. There is an old saying that the Platte River is a mile wide and an inch deep. **It used to be.** But drainage, dams, and irrigation has changed all that. Now it might be a few hundred yards wide though still pretty shallow. Most of the water comes from the melting of snow from the Rocky Mountains. The surge of flood water in the spring / early summer left that mile-wide swath of water. Cranes loved it. No shoreline trees to post up predatory eagles and plenty of water to discourage or blow the cover of hunting wolves and coyotes in those days. Now with the narrowing of the channel and the abundance of trees along the shore the night-time roost in the river is not so secure. Great efforts and costs are now employed to rid the river of its riparian trees so the cranes are less stressed out by fears of predators. Their weight gain is necessary for them to complete the north-bound leg of the flight.

I mentioned two organizations. One is the **Crane Trust** just west of Grand Island. The other is the **Rowe Sanctuary run by the National Audubon society** closer to Kearney, NE. Both are dedicated to enhancing the layover for the cranes. Both have blinds one can enter (for a fee) and watch either the evening gathering of the cranes or the morning departure to feeding areas. **Both are spectacular!** We were in a Rowe blind. When the birds first drift in about sundown it is impressive. So was the sunset. By dark it was almost overwhelming! We estimated we had nearly 10,000 cranes before us about 200 feet from our blind. With all those birds coming in for the evening, the sound was such that talking amongst ourselves was nearly impossible.

One cannot forget 10,000 cranes chattering into the sunset! We wanna go back!

Well, alright, then ... NFT



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  
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 our  
Tuesday meetings, please contact  
Barbara Franklin  
763-657-1907  
Or [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

August 22 - Audubon  
September 26 -  
October 24 - Tim & Lori Johnson



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