



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
May 2018

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

MAY

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Upper Mississippi River Watershed
Project – Dave Zentner

JUNE

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

JULY

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

“Our work to date includes citizen water quality monitoring with a purpose. It includes reaching out to global agricultural corporations. We’ve visited with farmers and colleague organizations. We’ve secured foundation funding. We have important “off-shoot” projects! There does appear to be an awakening, a buzz about bringing land and food production into better harmony with clean water, healthy soils, and wildlife. Yet, also embracing improved farm economic stability.”

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on May 22, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House of the Izaak Walton League of America, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. For more information call 763-421-6781.

**Social Educational Meeting:
Tues. May 22, 7:30 PM
Upper Mississippi River Watershed
Project – Dave Zentner**

David Zentner of the Duluth Izaak Walton League, two-time National Conservationist of the Year and former President of both the National and Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League will present a forum on the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) Project. This is a four-state initiative (IA, IL, MN, WI) to move forward our Clean Water Act goal set back in 1972 to make all the waters of these United States fishable and swimmable. It strives to instigate methods of cooperation between urban and suburban land owners, farmers, businesses and local government leaders and to understand the needs, wants and perceptions of each. How to monitor streams, tributaries and their watersheds to the river will also be discussed.



Breckenridge Chapter IWLA Board of Directors meeting minutes Apr 10, 2018

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Karen, Tim, John, Wes, Jim, Joe, Barb, Larry and Dick

Meeting called to order with recitation of the IWA's member pledge: *To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and 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.*

Marlys announced that after 20 years as an award winning editor, she is ready to pass on the torch to someone new. Barb volunteered to publish our next newsletter while we search for a new editor. The Board Members expressed appreciation to Marlys for her service.

Steve reviewed items coming up on our calendar including the Minnesota State Division Convention at the Audubon Center of the North.

Dick led issues discussion:

- Dave Zentner will be our speaker in May on the Upper Mississippi River Project.
- Dick announced we have five members who have indicated they will be attending the convention. He reviewed some of the proposed by-law changes to be voted upon and the Moose resolution our Chapter submitted.
- Should we sell or give away our plant sale leftovers to the Champlin Garden Club. Dick discussed options with the Champlin Garden Club and they have decided they will assess the income they receive and decide if they can make a donation to our Chapter.
- Migratory Bird Treaty weakening is being discussed in DC. We should call our Congressional representatives to object.

Steve shared request from Brooklyn Park for financial support of their Opinion Survey for which they have already received \$10,000 from the Trust for Public Land and for which they are seeking an additional \$4200. This is part of the City's Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Reinvestment Plan.

Steve led a discussion on membership recruitment.

Ideas presented:

- Subsidizing new members from Chapter funds
- Outdoor nature trips might attract new members. Larry suggested an August 4th trip to Blaine Preserve.

Pancake Breakfast: Jim has prepared volunteer sign-up sheets for set-up on Saturday May 5 and duties the day of the Pancake Breakfast, Sunday May 6.

Wes has donated a big new mailbox with large address numbers to help people find the Chapter House.

Energy grant – Tim will submit energy grant application to State Division based on estimates from contractors. We are seeking maximum \$2,000 to improve insulation in the Chapter House.

How are the moose doing?

A talk given at the Minnesota Ikes Convention by Mike Schrage
Summarized by Tim Johnson



There are around one million moose in North America but populations in some areas such as Minnesota are in big trouble. Northern Minnesota is on the southern edge of their normal range so it is understandable that they are more vulnerable here.

We had two healthy populations of moose in Minnesota as recently as the 1980's. The northwest moose population, approaching 4,000 in the 1980's, started to decline in the 1990's. As of today it has virtually disappeared, less than 100 remain. In a study, the DNR collared cows and calves in this population from 1995-2000 trying to explain the mortality. Finding low pregnancy rates and poor survival despite great habitat, the culprits seemed not to be hunting (hunting was ending) or predation by bears. Rather, parasites like liver flukes and brain-worm associated with white-tailed deer and winter ticks associated with warmer winters were implicated.

Our northeast moose population was around 8,000 in the 1980's but numbered less than 4,000 by 2005. There, a collaring study done between 2002 and 2008 (with animals continuing to be tracked after the collaring ended), found hunting mortality minimal but wolf predation significant.

The study found evidence of heat stress from warm winter temperatures, which were associated with delayed mortality later in the summer (it is known that winter temperatures above 20 degrees F cause heat stress in moose). Winter tick infestation is worsened in mild winters and causes the moose to rub against trees in an effort to dislodge them, which then causes breakage of hair and exposure to the elements.

Beginning in 2013, satellite tracked radio collared moose were studied in NE Minnesota. This allowed the researchers to get mortality alerts when the moose hadn't moved for a certain number of hours and to then retrieve the carcasses the same day for necropsy. Mortality was double the nationwide average and significantly linked to the health issues associated with parasites (brain-worm and liver flukes) associated with white-tailed deer. Winter ticks were not as prevalent as in previous years.

Infestations are thought to be episodic. This study found that most of calf mortality was from wolves rather than bears.

What can we do?

- End moose hunting – This has been done but that did not help the NW moose population decline. Hunting has been banned in the NE since 2013. Native Americans started hunting again in 2016 (they only take an insignificant number of bulls).
- Predator control – This would help but wolves have coexisted with moose for tens of thousands of years. If this were done, sport hunting wouldn't be enough. It would probably involve professional trappers or poison. Wolf control is not on the table and when they come off the endangered list, hunting them in the moose range will remain controversial.
- Listing moose as endangered – Probably a dubious solution, not likely to bring in any more money to help preserve them.
- Habitat management - Allow prescribed fire and letting wild fires burn in the BWCAW to create better forage (fire also destroys the land snails which are an intermediate host for brain-worm). Timber harvest in public forests and private land should include some clear-cutting which mimics fire. Also needed would be an end to conifer plantations on previously logged lands. Years ago before the BWCA was established, clear-cut logging was practiced in the boundary waters and prime moose habitat was created as it grew back. Densities of up to 2 moose/hectare (higher than white-tailed deer) were seen.
- Reduce white-tailed deer numbers by increased hunting – This will reduce spread of parasites from deer to moose and also suppress the wolf population that now can switch back and forth from moose to deer.
- Address climate change - In the long run this would be essential because moose are adapted to a colder climate. Some say it is already too late to save the moose in Minnesota due to the climate change that is baked in from previous CO2 emissions and that doing anything now to save the moose is a waste of time and money. Meanwhile, the moose range is expanding in the northern tundra areas of North America.

The Minnesota Izaak Walton League approved a resolution in April encouraging a Minnesota white-tailed deer management plans to reduce their numbers in moose range. Please comment on the [DNR deer plan](#) saying we need to prioritize moose over white-tailed deer in the Minnesota moose range.

Izaak Walton League, Breckenridge Chapter
Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife



Sunday, May 6, 2018
8 am-1 pm

Adults \$7.00 Children \$5.00

www.breckenridgeikes.org

Plant Sale!

Annual

Raffle!

Pancake Breakfast



Breckenridge Chapter House
8816 West River Road Brooklyn Park

Eared grebe sighting

by Tim Johnson

Hadn't seen one of these before today even though it's the most abundant grebe in the world, we only see it here in migration. This one was on the Mississippi River above Coon Rapids Dam. Its breeding plumage and red eye are so striking.

In North America they breed in shallow alkaline lakes, carrying their chicks on their backs like other grebes. Then they all fly either to Mono Lake in CA or to Great Salt Lake in Utah where they fatten up (more than double their weight) on brine shrimp and flies. While there, they allow the pectoral muscles to atrophy so they become flightless.

"These changes in size and proportions—the most extreme yet known for any bird—are then reversed during a brief predeparture period, when the birds catabolize much of their just-deposited fat, increase heart size, and reduce digestive organ mass to perhaps 25% of peak in preparation for a nonstop flight to wintering areas... Because a similar atrophy/hypertrophy cycle is repeated 3–6 times each year, the Eared Grebe has the longest flightless period of any volant bird in the world, perhaps totaling 9–10 months over the course of a year."



This year's waterfowl migration stopover in the impoundment above the Coons Rapids Dam was "once in a coon's age" due to the unusual late ice out on Minnesota lakes. Day after day the water was teeming with many species of waterfowl including Common, Red-necked and Hooded mergansers, Common goldeneye ducks, Wood ducks, Bufflehead ducks, Great blue heron, Common loons, Cormorants, White pelicans, Bonaparte's and Herring gulls, Lesser and Greater scaup, Ring-necked ducks, Shovelers, Blue-winged teal, Coots, Grebes (Eared, Pied, Red-necked and Horned). Opposite is that cousin of the Eared grebe pictured above, the Horned grebe.



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.

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
Barbara Franklin at: bbfrankli@gmail.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

May 22 - Mona Ge
June 26 -
July 24 -
Aug 28 -



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