



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
September 2018

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



## COMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits  
Highlights of the New Bell Museum
- 19-21 MN IWLA Fall Board of Directors meeting  
Breckenridge Chapter House

### NOVEMBER

- 13 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Grant Merrit – Iron and Water

### DECEMBER

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Christmas Day – no meeting

**Social/Educational Meeting:**  
**October 23, 2018 7:30 pm**

## Don Luce - Highlights of the New Bell Museum

Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum, will trace some of the history of the Museum and its dioramas, discuss the move of the dioramas, and present some of the special features to be found in the galleries and new building.

Don has worked in the museum world for four decades. He earned a degree in Zoology and a Master's degree in Medical and Biological

Illustration from the University of Michigan. At the Bell Museum, he has combined his interests in science, art and nature to produce original temporary and permanent exhibitions. Exhibition topics included art and nature, ecology, evolution, animal behavior, endangered species, and current University research. Many of these exhibitions toured nationally as part of Bell Museum's Touring Exhibition Service.



As curator of exhibits, he also curates the museum's collection of art, which includes many works by Francis Lee Jaques, who painted the museum's dioramas, a complete set of John James Audubon's original *Birds of America* folio, and many other historical and contemporary works of wildlife art.

For nearly two decades, Don has worked on plans for a new Bell Museum. The new museum opened this summer on the University's St. Paul campus. The project included the move and restoration of the museum's historic dioramas, and the design of new permanent exhibition galleries.

Don also remains active as an illustrator and artist. He illustrated books such as *Minnesota's Natural Heritage* by John Tester, and has been an artist-in-residence with the National Park Service. A retrospective exhibition of his art and illustrations, *A View from a Canoe*, showed at the Bell Museum in fall 2016.

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on October 23, 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.

# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes September 11, 2018

A quorum of board members was present: Steve, Tim, John, Barb, Dennis, Wes, Jim, Karen and Joe for latter portion.

Meeting was called to order with recitation of the Ike'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.*

Issues: Speakers are lined up for September (White-nose syndrome of bats) and October (Bell Museum of Natural History). Dick is contacting potential speakers for November and for our winter holiday party.

We will be hosting the State Division quarterly fall meeting Oct 19, 20, 21. Tim, Barb & Karen volunteered to help with hosting the event.

Tim gave the rental report: Rentals have been slow over the summer and early fall. Wes suggested we hang a sign out front by the street indicating the Chapter House is available for rental.

Jim presented building and grounds project updates:

- Reviewed removal of dead trees last month and discussed plans to cut up the limbs that are stacked behind the shed. We will ask Dick to provide his log splitter so we can stack it as firewood, date to be determined. There is one large dying red elm leaning toward a neighbor's home that we will need to deal with next year.
- New LED bulbs are in place in the fixtures in the old section of the building. It seems much brighter in there now even though they use less electricity.

Joe announced a donation of some AV equipment by Kris Olberg. We discussed how to mount the flat screen TV monitor. We will research what options are available for an AV cart.

John gave the Treasurer's report. We have received the final check for the damage of last year's hailstorm.

Jim updated us on scholarship fund. Our objective of providing for six scholarships is being met with donations and income from the endowment.

Our membership is currently stands at 104. Discussion was held on ways to increase this. Joe suggested we email Timberlines to contacts made at the National Night Out.

## Upper Harbor Terminal development plans

*On September 8 Karen Ostenso attended a meeting concerning plans to develop 48 acres of riverfront in North Minneapolis between the Lowry and Camden bridges, known as the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT). It includes approximately one mile of riverfront between the Lowry and Camden bridges belonging to the city of Minneapolis.*

Planning began in 2011 by gathering community input. The space had been used for barging until 2014 when Congress closed the locks. The design is far from finalized and a series of meetings is being held to explain the current status and continue to solicit input. The meeting was facilitated by Ward 4 City Councilman Phillippe Cunningham and several speakers made presentations.

The design is far from finalized and a series of meetings is being held to explain the current status and continue to solicit input. I attended one of the meetings on September 8. It was facilitated by Ward 4 City Councilman Phillippe Cunningham and several speakers made presentations.

Currently the site is used for industrial and open storage and there are several large buildings and piles of gravel. Testing has been done and fortunately, no serious toxic material has been found. It has no amenities now and no public access.

In 2016 the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) solicited proposals for re-development of the area and chose a team led by United Properties and including THOR Companies and First Avenue Productions. They also gathered input in the meeting I attended. The first of 3 phases is the plan that is most advanced at this time. It goes south to about 36th Avenue.

(continued on p 3)



primarily a narrow strip abutting the river. Phases 2 and 3 would extend the park from 36th Avenue to Lowry Avenue.

Fifteen million dollars from state bonding was approved in 2018. MPRB has approved 16 million. This money will go to build infrastructure, improve water quality and prepare the site for 125 million in private economic developments.

Some community members at the meeting wanted to be assured that gentrification would not displace current residents. The THOR Construction representative pointed out that city policy requires that at least 20 percent of rental units be affordable and at least 10 percent of privately owned housing be affordable. THOR intends to exceed both of these standards.

General goals of the development include benefiting the economy of the surrounding neighborhoods; preventing displacement (gentrification); consideration of environmental issues; availability of entertainment and recreational opportunities; and provision of housing, some of which must be affordable.



Although the plans are still incomplete, infrastructure and building projects are expected to be environmentally sound.

It is important to re-emphasize that the whole project is still in early planning stages. I was impressed by the extensive community input that has been solicited and the concerns for meeting the needs and desires of the area. The enormity of the over-all project is astonishing. Phase 1 public infrastructure and park construction may begin in 2020 or 2021. Ongoing information is available at [www.upperharbormpls.org](http://www.upperharbormpls.org).

The owner of First Avenue Productions is an experienced entrepreneur and has several entertainment venues around the twin cities. She proposes a building that has both indoor and outdoor performance spaces and anticipates ticketed events about 50 days per year. The space will be available to the public and for community events most of the rest of the days. Construction will provide jobs and so will scheduled events, so tax income will be generated. First Avenue plans to provide youth training and engagement also. Proposals for housing and jobs include a hotel, residential units, office and commercial space and a community innovation hub. Both public and private funding is being sought.

The MPRB is managing the open public space. It totals 15.5 acres with .8 acre called the Dowling Plaza at the east end of the Dowling bridge; 2.3 acres just south of the proposed performing arts center; and 12.4 acres of River Front Park,

# White Nose Syndrome in Minnesota Bats

*The talk on White Nose Syndrome in Minnesota Bats was presented at the Chapter House last month by Melissa Boman, Animal Survey Specialist, DNR. This article is based on information she provided and was reported by Tim Johnson*

The Little Brown Bat was the most prevalent bat in Minnesota just a few years ago but white-nose syndrome (WNS) has all but wiped them out. The fungus was brought to America, probably by cavers on their equipment, from Europe in about 2006. The fungus probably devastated bats in Europe several centuries ago. Since then some immune survivors have repopulated the continent.

Now the most prevalent bat in Minnesota is another cave dwelling bat, the Big Brown Bat. It can elude the white nose fungus because it is heavier and therefore it can tolerate hibernation nearer the cave mouth where it is colder and the fungus doesn't survive. This is also the most common bat found in attics. Two other cave bats, the Northern Long Eared Bat and the Tri-colored Bat (adults weighing only 5 g), are affected by the fungus and have been federally listed as threatened.

Tree bats like our Eastern Leaf Bat, Silver-haired Bat and Hoary Bat are not affected by WNS as they do not enter the caves where the fungus is found. They migrate south in order to avoid our winter weather.

Cave bats emerge from the hibernacula and migrate (can be hundreds of miles) to their foraging grounds in the spring. In May, females form maternity colonies because they need the extra heat of each other to keep pups warm. Each mother gives birth to one pup. The young become volant (can fly) in about three weeks and reach adult size in 4 weeks. Mothers teach young where and how to forage (they eat up to 8g/day of insects like moths and mosquitoes). By the end of July to August the maternity colonies disband. In the fall the bats move to hibernaculum and swarm cave mouths where they greet each other. This may be to exchange information and to show pups different hibernaculum that are available. They then fast as they hibernate all winter.

Because they are social, the fungus spreads throughout the infected caves causing up to 99% mortality. The fungus infection occurs as the bats immune system is weaker during hibernation and it arouses them repeatedly. This causes them to deplete their crucial fat supply that they need to make it through until spring and thus they starve to

death or get frost bite. Of the few that survive until spring, some are able to heal the damage to their wings as their immune systems rev up but the scarring often leads to defects in their flight abilities.

Our Minnesota DNR has been surveying bats for several years so they will be able to compare before and after WNS. They do this in several ways. They catch some and band and fit them with transmitters weighing 0.03g (very expensive). The transmitters fall off after a few days but by tracking them the scientists learn more about their behavior. They have found their preferred roost trees are dead or dying American Elm, Aspen, and White Oak. They like to get under the loose bark or into cavities in the snags.



Predators of bats include small carnivores, birds, rats and snakes. A new man-made cause of bat mortality is wind turbines.

Regular survey routes are done using acoustic methods. The surveyors can identify which species and how many bats are present from the unique acoustic signatures. It is presumed that the niche formerly held by our WNS affected cave bats will be at least partially filled by the other species.

Still, scientists are exploring ways to save all the native bats including possibly introducing other fungi which compete with the WNS fungus, placing UV light (which kills the WNS fungus) near the cave mouth, or vaccinating the bats with a cream that the bats will lick off each other as they groom one another.

We, as individuals, can also help by informing others about the positive services bats provide and



how harmless they are in general (rabies is very rare among bats) although a sick bat should not be handled bare-handed. Preserving habitat like standing dying trees and snags is important. Building man-made bat houses and placing them 12-15 ft above the ground in full sun will help provide alternate maternal roosting sites (Bat Conservation International has plans).

## Opinion: Too short

The famous Chief Seattle is often quoted as saying something like “we need to preserve the Earth for the next seven generations”. According to today’s average thinking standards his statement is admirable. But upon contemplation I have discovered a fact: I have already lived over 3 generations, my 2 great grandsons will probably live another 3 generations-then there is only one generation left! Are we willing to bring our preparedness to preserve the Earth and its species to a halt then? We should be preparing to preserve the Earth in perpetuity as best we can. And that means less consumption, less population and more conservation-preservation planning. If this is “fake news”, let me know! Some may.

*Dick Brown*

## Recycling in the Twin Cities

*This past summer, nine lkes, three from Breckenridge Chapter toured the [Eureka Recycling \(ER\) plant](#).*

### Background

Eureka Recycling is a non-profit partner-member of the MN Environmental Partnership (MEP) and is dedicated to a goal of "zero waste". The company collects and processes all the residential recyclables in St Paul and some other Ramsey Co. cities. It also processes the same for all of Minneapolis. This amounts to 350 to 400 tons/day. At present, about 50% of the trash stream in the two cities is recycled. Lack of consumer participation means that 50% of the remaining trash is also recyclable and 20% of that is compostable. There has been some increase in recycled volume in St Paul with the single-stream bins introduction in late 2017.

ER pays high wages and benefits and uses very few temp workers. The drivers and employees are all union. The turnover average is 10 yrs, much higher than other area recycling facilities. There are about 100 employees presently. With the change to trucks with automated-arm pickup of single-stream bins, workers' comp payments dropped significantly. With the smaller curbside bins, the one driver used to lift and empty about two tons of material per day.

### Physical description & some numbers

The processing plant is a maze of walkways, very large and noisy machines, and about 80 conveyer belts. The average speed of the belts is 400 ft/minute. Air jets are used on the paper lines to sort by density, magnets are used to separate aluminum from steel, and an Optical Laser Reader is used to sort different resin plastics that are then air-jetted to separate conveyors. It can read two kinds of plastic.

Human labor is used in multiple "picker" lines who Quality Control the waste stream on the conveyors with high-speed decision-and-hand-eye coordination.

Only about 10% of ER end products leave the 3-state area (MN/WI/IA). 80% of recycled material stays in MN and 100% stays in the US. All paper and cardboard goes to West Rock (former Rock Tenn) in St Paul which makes cereal boxes and other paper products. Due to the big increase in online shopping and online news media subscriptions, the weight of the cardboard stream is now greater than newspaper.



### Commodity prices/costs

Aluminum is now the most valuable commodity recovered at ER. Cans and foil are crushed and compressed into 1100 lb bales. Market prices fluctuate daily but each of these is worth about \$1300 to \$1500 today. Glass is recycled today at

ER for little income but they do it for the "zero waste" principle. A processing fee is paid by St Paul to process glass bottles and jars, and a refund is made if sale of glass exceeds the fee. ER crushes the glass and then sorts it by size. It is then sold to "beneficiary plants" where optical readers sort the glass by color. Despite the relatively low cost of recycled glass compared to aluminum, the greater transportation costs due to the weight of glass, and a more energy needed for making new glass bottles may be factors in the increased use of cans by beer producers.

### **China ban on contaminated material**

35% of recyclables in the US have been shipped from the W Coast to China in empty cargo ships for processing and reuse. These return with more inexpensive products for US consumers (due to low-wage labor). However, in early 2018, China announced they would not accept this "waste" anymore due to the high rate of contamination of both paper and plastics. Contamination in recycling means mixing non-recyclable materials in with good content, which renders large volumes uneconomical for further sorting. These are then either disposed by burning or by burying. "Knock-on" effects of China's decision resulted in huge quantities of recyclables now treated as orphaned waste on docks and warehouses both in Europe and the US. This affected national & regional market prices also. The surplus of recycled paper went from \$70/ton to \$5/ton in the metro area. ER recently had to lay off 10 workers.

### **Problems of recycling to achieve zero waste**

There are also big contamination effects on recycling at the local level. ER has a "zero waste" ranking from ZeroWaste USA because it recycles more than 90% of the incoming materials. It has only about 6% of "residual" that must be incinerated or landfilled.

Although certain of the items below are explicitly prohibited by the Ramsey Co. recycling info sheet as well as the St Paul Public Works brochure, large amounts of these are collected weekly and "processed" by ER. Many consumers practice "wishful recycling", hoping what they put in the recycle bin will be recycled. They do not care to research the materials or items by calling the Eureka hotline. (This would be the individual walking around after a large conservation meeting with a styrofoam cup in his hand, asking where the recycling bin is, as well as all of his neighbors.)

1) **Multi-material packaging**, e.g., potato chip tubes that contain metal, cardboard, and plastic.

Despite the mixed content of these tubes, the metal *is* recycled at ER with the magnetic sorter and the whole tube is baled with other steel. It appears that the cardboard and plastic are burned off during the smelting process.

### 2) **Plastics**

a) Although **Black plastic** comes in different types of resins (i.e., recycle #s), the laser readers cannot see black plastic and *none of it can be sorted and recycled*. In addition, there is no market for it. Yet it continues to be used by different grocery stores (e.g. for rotisserie chicken and pies) and many restaurants for take-out and take-home containers

b) **Polystyrene** Neither Styrofoam nor hard forms of polystyrene (PS-- no. 6) can be recycled *in any color*.

c) **Technical barriers** One example, Aveda worked with ER and product engineer people to make fully recyclable hair product containers with pumps. But presently these cannot be sorted due to the very small volumes of this 'good plastic' stream (labor intensive). And the ultra-light plastic water bottles save plastic in production but they look like paper to the machine sorter and are actually a contaminant at this time.

d) **Plastic bags** are a big problem when mixed with other materials. A few grocery stores accept white, clear, or light-colored plastic bags, but they cannot be recycled with paper, plastic, glass, or metal. Bags tangled in the conveyors force expensive line shut-downs. (This is another 'wishful' act.)

e) Old **Unnumbered plastic items & containers**. Apparently, unless it is labeled with a recyclable resin no., it cannot be recycled.

These plastic materials are a waste and are baled and shipped to a waste-to-energy incinerator. This is also the destination of a lot of the residential trash/garbage collected in St. Paul and Washington Co. Depending on the hauler, it is processed in Newport to produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) that is burned in power plants in Red Wing and Elk River to make electricity. Waste materials from Mpls are sent to the Hennepin Co. Energy Recovery Center (HERC) where they produce electric power and that is where the ER combustible residual goes also. What waste is not converted to fuel for power plants is landfilled in MN, WI, or IA. This includes some waste from recycling facilities as well as all the residential waste/trash in the metro area.

3) **Metal bottle caps** are too small to recycle, despite consumer assumptions. A solution is to put them in a STEEL can (test with magnet) with a closable lid still attached (e.g. soup can). With the magnetic separator, the can and caps will pass on to the steel conveyor.

4) **Dumping** There was obvious evidence of dumping of waste in recycling bins on the day of our visit. This included chunks of concrete, electric cords, metal strips. This anti-social behavior is made easier by the covered lids and the automated emptying of the new bins into the trucks. A lot of the plastic bags in the bins may be put there with a disposal intention and not out of ignorance. (The old couch or mattress or stove dumped on the side of a back road at night, is the same behavior as putting non-recyclables in the recycling bin so you don't need to pay for proper disposal. "Life is a progression of lowered expectations.") There is no inspection or enforcement to prevent and discourage this behavior, so the costs are shared with the other taxpayers. This will probably not change due to the no-taxes, no-government attitude of some fellow citizens and voters.

#### **What you can do as a consumer.**

1. When cities send out RFP's for trash and recycling pick-up services they should include language stating that the RFP's will be scored not only on the cost of the service but also on environmental considerations: where materials go, how are they processed, final disposition. And also employee compensation, including pay, benefits, sick time.

2. Social media outreach to companies regarding product design/content. Producer Responsibility!

Producers are designing and releasing products that are not actually recyclable. Those familiar with different apps say that Twitter is an effective way to get change from a company, more so than FB.

3. Pay attention (statewide) to recycling requirements and procedures where you live. Where recycling programs exist, they are not all the same. If not done properly, you may contaminate a lot of recycling and turn it into waste to be burned or buried. Although it appears that St Paul (and maybe other localities) have given up on expecting people to recycle plastics according to resin #, you can make the effort to keep no. 3 and no. 6 out of the recycling, but what will you do with it? There is little environmental benefit in the new No. 7 "compostable" cornstarch (?) plastic container, which requires industrial-size composting to decompose. (yes, they are not fossil based) If you find no practical re-use for them, it seems to make sense to put them in with recycling. They will become a fuel for energy and, at this time, they cannot be made into new plastic. Maybe that is why the county and city no longer list acceptable and unacceptable plastic resin numbers for recycling.

4. Think "End Use" while shopping - is the packaging of the product you want to buy able to be recycled through your provider? If not, pay more for the other product and then send a message to the first saying you bought from the competition because they are better stewards of the nations resources.

Gordon Andersson  
St Paul

**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)**

**Oct 23 - Judy Arnold  
Nov 27 -**



**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](mailto: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. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.

## **Uncertainty for our oldest native**

A person may live to 120 years, some trees to 1000 years or more. In Hennepin County the oldest living thing may live to around 300 years or more.

The Anoka Sand Plain spilled across the Mississippi River into N.E. Hennepin County thousands of years ago, nurturing an Oak Savanna-Prairie area in the eastern part of Champlin. The sturdiest long living species that survived here through the ages is the Burr Oak (*Quercus Marccocarpa*), part of the "White Oak" family.

As City Councils seek 100% development, these ancient remnants are in the way and few are left standing anywhere. Probably the oldest living native in Champlin is at about 119<sup>th</sup> and Business Park Boulevard. It has been estimated by the D.N.R. Metropolitan Forester to be around 200 years or more. The U of M Dean of Hardwood Ecology believes the tree may be as old as 300 years, depending on moisture, nutrients and competition through the years with other trees. This tree, according to a private yearlong survey, is probably the oldest tree in Champlin. Other trees such as Cottonwood, Red Oak or Elm, etc. may be larger but have a tendency to grow faster, thus not as old per size. A tree such as this is a living relic of history and should be preserved as long as it so shall live.

Can the Champlin City Council – will the Champlin City Council persuade the owners of the property to preserve this ancient giant of Minnesota history because it is the last survivor of its age group in Champlin? The property on which it stands is for sale and development. Citizens of Champlin will watch both developer and Council to see where their interests lay in regards to survival of our oldest historic native!

*Dick Brown*