



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
September 2018

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Melissa Boman - White-Nose Bat Syndrome

OCTOBER

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Don Luce – 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

Social/Educational Meeting: White-nose Bat Syndrome Melissa Boman, Animal Survey Specialist, DNR

Melissa Boman has been working as an Animal Survey Specialist with the Minnesota Biological Survey at the DNR since 2016. During winter, she has focused on monitoring the spread of White-nose Syndrome in our state's hibernating bats. Summer bat work has included mist netting for the federally-threatened Northern Long-eared Bat and locating their maternity roosts. She also conducts other small mammal surveys and assists with amphibian and reptile surveys, specifically surveys for salamanders and wood turtles, when possible.

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on September 25, 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.

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)



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes August 14, 2018

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Dick, Tim, John, Barb, Dennis, Larry and Karen.

Meeting was called to order with recitation of the Ike's member pledge.

Issues:

- Dick announced that our September speaker would be Gerda Nordquist (Animal survey mammalogist). She will speak on white nose syndrome in bats.
- Dick passed around bullet points of a plan he is presenting to preserve a section of Oxbow Creek Park in Champlin that is under study for possible sale to adjacent landowners for development. He asked for the Chapter's endorsement, which was agreed upon.

Members reported on National Night Out gathering at the Chapter House. It was well attended, over 60 adults plus their children. Ike's literature was passed out and our field trip to Blaine Preserve was advertised.

Tim gave the Rental report: The next three months are slow but the weekend the State Division wanted to meet at our Chapter House was already booked.

Tim presented building and grounds project updates:

- Roof has been re-shingled.
- Old attic insulation has been removed. The old vermiculite insulation has been tested and qualifies for a refund from the Zonolite Attic Insulation Trust.
- New insulation will be blown in August 16.
- Tom Reid and his sons spent a full day taking down all the trees that the city marked as hazardous. The charge was \$2,500. A pile of the logs behind the shed will need to be cut up this fall by volunteers for firewood.

John updated the board on Chapter accounts. Projects have been coming in under budget for the most part. He also explained how we can use our Menards rebate coupons from the roof shingle purchase for several hundred dollars of purchases. One thing we will buy is new LED bulbs to improve lighting in the original section of the building.

Steve will announce the election of officers at this month's Social/Ed meeting.

Tim Johnson, Interim Secretary

Opinion: Discerning "Fake"

Upon reading a *Newsweek* magazine article on how to discern "fake" news from authentic, I began to think about my own advocating thoughts. The trend seems to be that to increase the economy we need younger immigrants to offset our aging population.

However, when the immigrants reach old age, what do we do then? Increase more immigration? When do we reach an optimum population? Many say we have long ago reached that point about 50 years ago. Do we need to increase our economy or could it stand a slight decrease? Do we want a better environment, the balance of nature, preservation of our natural heritage, endangered species, clean water and air and abundant private space? If so, how about slowing down on consumption and depletion of our natural resources? Do we need to curb population growth to achieve these goals? Maybe as some say- we don't. What is the best road to take for a better long term 7 generation future? Where does "fake news" apply to these problems? It needs lengthy objective discussion!

Dick Brown

Freeing our River

Reported by Tim Johnson

Did you know that the eight miles of the Mississippi gorge which run through our Twin Cities might be returned to its natural white water state? It was one of only four big rapid sections of the upper river before it and the others were drowned with dams a century ago. Olivia Dorothy, Associate Director, Mississippi River Management, spoke at our August meeting about the once in a lifetime chance we have to accomplish this.

Now that the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam has been permanently closed to prevent the spread of invasive carp further up the river, barge traffic through Lock and Dam 1 (Ford Dam) is virtually non-existent. The US Army Corps of Engineers has stopped dredging the 9 foot channel between the two dams and silt is quickly filling it in. That leaves us with a choice to make. The USACE is currently studying what is in the best interest of taxpayers. The three options seem to be a) continue current operation and maintenance of the structures (major reconstruction expenses of ~\$45 million dollars which need to be done about every 50 years will soon be due) b) transfer ownership to another federal, state, local, non-profit or private entity c) remove the structures at a one time expense of ~\$65 million dollars.

American Rivers is advocating for removal. They say that “historically, the Gorge’s narrow, rocky channel would have been used by several aquatic species of concern that seek swifter water and

rockier substrates for parts of their lifecycles. Some of these species include: American eel, paddlefish, lake sturgeon and Higgins’ eye pearly mussel. Removing the dams is the only sure way to revive the unique rapids ecosystem in the Mississippi River.”

Besides the wildlife conservation advantages and long term cost savings, removal would open up this section of the river to recreation including white water kayaking and canoeing. The combined drop of over 50 ft over 8 miles (the steepest section would be just below Upper St Anthony Lock and dam where the river passes underneath the I-35W bridge) could attract major white water competitions as well as open up the entire section as prime fishing habitat. Small mouth bass would likely be near the top of the list sought after.

The USACE study is due to be released in 2019 and American Rivers is making their position known that “the time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities.”

For more information on this subject see [NOW IS THE TIME TO RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER GORGE](#)



August Was a Busy Month at the Chapter House

The accompanying pictures show that the August 7th National Night Out event at the Chapter House attracted lots of local folks. Sixty-one adults and twenty-one kids signed in for a neighborhood pot luck (we believe more folks stopped in without signing in). Joe and Judy Klohs, Karen Ostenso, Jim and Judy Arnold and Barb Franklin organized the event. Special thanks to Laura Fuller, a local resident who has organized many previous Night Out events, for helping us with her expertise.

These activities occurred at the chapter house later in the month:

- Seven trees which the city had marked as hazardous were taken down by Tom Reid (Breckenridge Chapter Member) and his crew.
- Old vermiculite insulation was removed from the ceiling and air infiltration sites were sealed. Later, new insulation was blown in.*
- On August 22 Breckenridge Chapter member and League of Women Voters member Gretchen Sable met at the Chapter House with Dave Zentner to discuss ways that the two organizations can work on the Upper Mississippi Initiative.

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*NOTE – Most of the cost of the insulation work, the new shingles in July and the future gutters will be covered by insurance and a grant from the state IWL.



Thanks to photographers Larry Kennebeck, Karen Ostenso and Laura Fuller for some great pictures!



World Overpopulation – Beginning of Problem

Part 2 of an article reprinted from the Kingfisher newsletter of the Minneapolis Chapter of Audubon by permission of the author. Part 1 appeared in the January issue of Timberlines.

Twenty-one hundred years ago, about the time of Christ, there were about 0.17 billion people in the world and about 2 million of them lived in what is now the United States and most of these lived on the west coast. Looking at the world population map on the World Population website¹, one can see there were vast areas of the world, especially the area that would become the United States, was very sparsely populated. Only northern China and northern India had high populations. Looking at the populations in the year 1600 after the America's were "discovered", populations in Europe were getting denser and there were some early overpopulation symptoms. However in China, Japan and India it is clear there were definite overpopulation symptoms. One symptom of overpopulation is the "Black Death" that started in China in 1334 and spread to Europe by 1347. It could not have done so without a high population density. Fortunately during this period great advances in technology and sanitation were made and the populations were able to rebound. An example of a sanitation advance is in 1388 the English Parliament forbade throwing garbage into rivers, ditches and waterways. A simple move, but it probably prevented large numbers of deaths from cholera and other water borne diseases.

These great advances in technology and sanitation allowed populations to increase. The introduction of three-field crop rotation in the 600's, introduction of the blast furnace to Europe allowed the invention of the iron plow, aquaculture introduced in China during the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644), and the 1701 invention of the seed drill are but a few examples that allowed the increased production of food to feed the rising populations, but at the cost of depleted soil fertility, forests and increased water pollution.

History is also filled with hundreds of examples where Overpopulation has been mitigated by famine, disease and war. The Great Famine (1315 – 1322) killed 10 – 25% of the population³ in Europe. Smallpox wiped out about a third of Japan's population in 736¹ and this was repeated in America when smallpox arrived in about 1520¹ where it decimated the Native American population. The "Black Death" in the middle ages was estimated to reduce the population in Europe by over half³. The Thirty Years War claimed about 8 million Europeans⁴.

The symptoms of world Overpopulation became clear in the America's beginning in the 1700's when the large migration from Europe and Asia began arriving in America, probably relieving some of the Overpopulation symptoms in Europe and Asia. The United States had plenty of room for these immigrants until the final area, Oklahoma, filled up in about 1890. Native Americans definitely felt this pressure far earlier, hence the Indian Wars and relocations. This migration demonstrates that Overpopulation is a worldwide problem, not a regional or country problem. Historically, wherever there was an Underpopulation, the Overpopulation tended to fill the lower population; often a war expedites the process. Then when the Underpopulation is filled the scale gets rapidly tipped to Overpopulation through more immigration and increased births. This occurred in the United States in about 1920. The Global Footprint Network's data suggests that only about 2 billion⁶ people can live sustainably on Earth. A world population of two billion people was reached in 1927. This leads us to today where the worldwide situation keeps getting more severe with little prospects for change in sight!

Jerry Bahls

1. <http://worldpopulationhistory.org/map/1/mercator/1/0/25/>
2. Teofilo F. Ruiz, "Medieval Europe: Crisis and Renewal." *An Age of Crisis: Hunger*. The Teaching Company. ISBN 1-56585-710-0.
3. Ole J. Benedictow, *History Today*, **55(3)**, March 2005.
4. Peter H. Wilson, *Europe's Tragedy: A New History of the Thirty Years War* (London: Penguin, 2010) p. 4
5. D. Lin, L. Hanscom, J. Martindill, M. Borucke, L. Cohen, A. Galli, E. Lazarus, G. Zokai, K. Iha, D. Eaton, M. Wackernagel. 2017. Working Guidebook to the National Footprint Accounts. Oakland: Global Footprint Network.
6. http://www.worldpopulationbalance.org/3_times_sustainable. While this number may be able to be calculated, I found no reference where it was calculated or a reference to someone who has calculated it. I made an attempt to do so from the Global Footprint Network's data by looking at the countries with the top ten populations, which represented about 56% of the world population. However, the Global Footprint Network's data sites an Ecological Footprint value of less than 1.7 global hectares (gha) per person AND a Human Development Index (HDI) value of between 0.7 and 0.8 as globally sustainable. Thus without considerable more research I was unable to do the calculations. Global Footprint Network's data released in 2017 which used 2013 data, the world population was 7.18 billion people. The Total Ecological Footprint was 2.9 gha/person. The world Total Biocapacity is 1.7 gha/person which leaves a deficit of 1.2 gha/person and by using simple proportionality to calculate the population the Total Capacity of 1.7 gha/person would give a population of 4.2 billion. No HDI is given for the total world so I couldn't calculate its effect. It is given for the each country, but calculating each country's part for the world is beyond my capability. So my conclusion is that 2 billion is probably a good population to use as the maximum population for a sustainable world. 4.2 billion is probably a maximum number.

Work of the Minnesota Division

Do the Ikes really make a difference? This is part of a fundraising letter from Craig Sterle, President of the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America.

In Minnesota and across the country our natural resources are under siege as never before by those who seek to eliminate protections for our environment. Now more than ever it is critical the we Minnesota Ikes step up to defend our soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife. **Your financial contributions make the work of Ikes across the State possible.**

Over the past few months, your donations have gone to good use:

- When many in our Minnesota Congressional delegation tried to sneak the exchange of federal lands with PolyMet into a giant omnibus funding bill **the Minnesota Ikes stepped up and blocked it.**
 - ✓ A team of six Ikes and friends rushed to Washington this March to bring the truth about the harmful effects of the proposed PolyMet mine on our waters and succeeded.
- When the state legislature proposed to strip the Minnesota Department of Agriculture of their ability to protect drinking water from excessive nitrate pollution, **the Minnesota Ikes stepped up.**
 - ✓ We brought rural well owners to the Capitol to testify, mobilized to offer free well testing in the Minnesota River Valley, and support frank discussions among rural residents about their water supplies.
- Forty-five years after the Clean Water Act, our rivers still run dirty, **so the Minnesota Ikes have stepped up** to create a four-state Upper Mississippi River Initiative.
 - ✓ We've launched community pilots within multiple watersheds to address flooding, groundwater pollution and unhealthy rivers and lakes. We've created "safe spaces" for farmers to step forward and join us in actions that will regenerate healthy soils, retain water on the land, and sequester carbon back in the soil where it belongs.
- Pollinators are in trouble, from loss of habitat to widespread use of harmful pesticides, **so the Minnesota Ikes stepped up.**
 - ✓ We've proposed better pollinator habitat management along public roads across the state and our members are working to create "pollinator friendly" communities.
- Corporations are renewing their efforts to open the Tongass National Forest to more roads and old-growth logging, while our own DNR has proposed logging in the North Arm complex of ski trails adjacent to the BWCAW. **The Minnesota Ikes have stepped up.**
 - ✓ We've visited Washington twice to keep the "public" in "public forest management", written op-eds and letters to the editor, met with Congress and assembled an expert team of members to propose alternative management for the forests of the North Arm trail complex.

We've made tremendous progress this year, more than doubling our Minnesota Division budget to bring on more help and to support this great work.

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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. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary.



If you can provide light refreshments for our
Tuesday meetings, please contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

Sep 25 - Lori Johnson
Oct 23 - Judy Arnold
Nov 27 -

