



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
September 2020

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



## COMING EVENTS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

7 pm the second Wednesday of the month  
through February 10, 2020

October 14, 2020

November 11, 2020

December 9, 2020

January 13, 2021

February 10, 2021

### Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting September 9, 2020

Board of directors Zoom meeting, called to order by  
Steve Schaust at 7:11 pm

Members present on Zoom call: Steve Schaust, Tim  
Johnson, Barb Franklin, Dick Brown, Wendy  
Steele, Karen Ostenso, Dennis Leslie, Larry  
Kennebeck, Jim Arnold, Jerry Steele

#### **IWLA National:**

Steve stated that the IWLA national is going to start  
meeting four times a year (vs. 2 previously) to  
discuss issues such as membership, meetings,  
activities at chapters, etc. Next one will be October  
6 (evening) – will get time & details to Dick –  
notification should be coming out in the next two  
weeks. Steve plans to be on the Zoom call.  
Thoughts about member social meetings may start  
after the first of the year. Steve is hopeful that

vaccinations will be available in January or  
February.

#### **Zoom Speakers**

Coordinated by John Rust have been good, but not  
enough attendance for a statewide opportunity. Tim  
spoke to John Rust about informing folks they can  
Zoom on their smart phones too. – Speakers  
suggestions are welcome. Larry has a few ideas in  
mind.

#### **Timberlines:**

Articles for *Timberlines* are also needed. Consensus  
is we should focus on local issues. Larry offered use  
of any of his photos from Facebook for the  
*Timberlines*.

Karen noted that historical articles are of interest to  
her (and others) about how the city has changed,  
meetings have changed, etc. A suggestion to ask  
Mary Ellen Vetter and also Dick Brown to  
contribute an article about our chapter's history.  
Also, possibly a "historical fact sheet" to be placed  
on the wall at the chapter house, and on our website.  
Tim submitted some historic photos of our chapter  
to National IWLA but has not heard yet about them  
being published. Dick has some photos of  
construction of Clubhouse (three men in front of  
fireplace, outside).

#### **Insurance:**

Discussion about our Insurance Policy led by Jim  
Arnold. Jim moved to approve the renewal of our  
insurance policy with Cincinnati Insurance Co.,  
Steve seconded – motion passed unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's report:**

John Fraley's Treasurer report was reviewed. Tom  
Reid still needs to be paid for working on the tree

above the gazebo. Jim will talk to Tom to confirm amount.

**Gazebo:**

Side note: Jim does not want the gazebo we agreed to give him last month. Tim moved that “First come, first serve can take the gazebo” within the next month. Barb seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

**Buckthorn project:**

Update from Tim: New buckthorn seedlings are up – deer are not browsing the plots much. Other native seeds were also planted to compete with the buckthorn but so far our existing seed bank is dominating. Experiment will run through 2022.

**Chapter Elections:** Under the current pandemic circumstances it’s okay for our Board to decide officers without a membership election.

- President: Steve Schaust agreed to continue as President
- Vice President: Larry Kennebeck agreed to continue as Vice President (had to leave the meeting early due to his first great-grandchild being born during the meeting!)
- Secretary: Wendy Steele agreed to continue as Secretary
- Treasurer: Due to health reasons John Fraley will no longer hold this office or be on the Board. Jim Arnold agreed to serve as “Acting Temporary Treasurer” with Tim Johnson as “Assistant Acting Temporary Treasurer.” We are still looking for a member to volunteer to fill the position.

**Water Testing program:**

Dick asked for an update on the Water quality monitoring program that was presented to the Board last year. Tim explained that due to the pandemic this program has been postponed until next year – there is still strong interest for our involvement. The buckthorn control on Banfill Island in cooperation with the NPS has also been postponed for this reason.

**Additional business:**

Dick led a discussion on filling vacant BOD positions? We need 13 – we are currently at 11. Board members to attempt to recruit new volunteers.

**Wes Hendrickson:**

Several Board members attended Board member Wes Hendrickson’s funeral service. There were donations that will be directed to our Chapter. Jim will contact Wes’s wife Judy about how best to use the donation.

**Wildlife Reports:**

A beaver took down an ironwood tree next to the gazebo on the grounds.

**Rentals:**

One Holiday rental has been cancelled, another one has been scheduled. National Night Out was cancelled.

**Grounds Maintenance:**

Regarding the leaning tree above the stairs to the river: Tom Reid suggested setting up a pulley system to protect the railings when the tree drops. Dick has the tools needed. Jim, Tim, Steve, Dick and also Jerry will be involved in this project – Can still be done this fall. Karen recommended that someone take photos of this, as it seems like quite an involved effort.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.



*Zig-zag goldenrod on the bluff*  
Photo by Tim Johnson

## Opinion: Protecting favored species while young

In the September *Timberlines* Tim Johnson gave an excellent report of John Moriarty's suggestions for our upland woods at the chapter house. There was talk on how to protect emergent species we favor; archery deer season was one.

I have experience in Northern Minnesota on protecting seedlings we planted from deer browse (also on natural emerging species.) We planted about 100 White Pine seedlings the first year. Within 2 or 3 seasons they were almost all killed from browse, despite the fact we sprayed them twice a year. Then we planted another 50 White Pine seedlings and "bud capped" them according to U.S. Wildlife officials' directions. We still lost about 50%. Then for a Christmas present my son, Steve gave me 600 seedlings: 200 White Pine, 200 White Cedar, 100 Tamarac and 100 Black Walnut. I suspected the Walnuts would not do well that far north, and they did not. We lost about 50% of all other species in the next two years.

We then started a program of planting 25 -50 seedlings for several years and erecting a cage around them. The cages were 5' and 6' high and held down by one iron stake and one twig stake on the opposite side. We had about 90% success and now have many thriving native trees scattered here and there on our 240-acre property. The only problem with this method is that it is time consuming and expensive, but it worked for us.

We found out by trial and error that you cannot remove the cages until the trees get large enough (4" diam.) so that a "Buck rub" will not damage the trunk all the way around. They seem to prefer saplings from 1" to 3" diameter. I presume Maples, Hackberry, etc. could be treated similar. We have saved Oaks in this manner.

*Dick Brown*

## Golden Seal



*Goldenseal (Hydrastis canadensis)*  
Photo by Larry Kennebeck

Goldenseal, also called orangeroot or yellow puccoon, is a perennial herb in the buttercup family Ranunculaceae, native to southeastern Canada and the eastern United States. It may be distinguished by its thick, yellow knotted rootstock. A rare species in Minnesota, Goldenseal reaches the northwest edge of its range in our southeast counties and the yellow, knotty roots are a hot commodity in the herbal medicine trade. While it has never been common in the state, according to the DNR, wild populations are diminishing across its range, partly from habitat destruction, but also due to exploitation from illegal harvesting. It was listed as a MN Endangered Species in 1984 and is currently listed as Special Concern in Wisconsin. It is easily identified by the pair of hairy, palmately lobed leaves and the single, petal-less flower or raspberry-like fruit at the tip of the stem.

## A Voyageur National Park Internship

David Hainlen, A Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship recipient attending North Dakota State, was an intern at Voyageur National Park this summer. David will graduate early this fall and is currently applying to graduate schools. He had a wonderful learning experience at Voyageur NP. As part of his experience he was asked to write articles on amphibians and reptiles for the park's website. His article on amphibians appears below with permission from David and the Park Service.



### Amphibians

As a water-based park, Voyageurs National Park supports many types of wetlands, such as sphagnum-peat bogs, wooded swamps, and marshes. These wetlands, along with the many lakes that make up Voyageurs National Park, provide the habitat that amphibians need to survive and reproduce. This wide array of aquatic habitats is ideal because all amphibians rely on water at some point during their lifetime.



*Central Newt (Notophthalmus viridescens)*

### Amphibians in the Park

Voyageurs National Park has 10 confirmed species of amphibians, which can be further divided into one toad species, seven frog species, one salamander species, and one newt species. Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs are some of the first frogs to emerge and start singing in spring, often when there is still snow on the ground. Northern Leopard Frogs, Northern Green Frogs, Mink Frogs, and Gray Treefrogs emerge as the temperatures grow consistently warmer and begin their breeding cycles later in the spring and into the summer. The American Toad begins its breeding season mid-spring and into mid-summer. The American Toad has a more terrestrial (land-based) lifestyle versus the more aquatic (water-based) lifestyle of adult frogs. Both the Blue Spotted Salamander and Central Newt have aquatic based developmental stages and lifestyles; however, adult salamanders have a more terrestrial existence, preferring moist wooded areas and leaf litter whereas adult Central Newts are entirely aquatic



*Northern Green Frog (Lithobates clamitans melanota)*

### **Sensitive Group**

Amphibians are sensitive to changes in their environment due to the fact that their skin is more permeable than ours, so while water and oxygen can pass through their skin, so can other chemicals, including ones detrimental to their health. This is one reason amphibian populations are on the decline around the world. Because amphibians are so sensitive to changes in their environment, they are an ideal group to study to determine if there is anything wrong in the environment. By monitoring amphibian populations, scientists are able to detect when environmental changes occur.



*American Toad (Anaxyrus americanus)*

## Research Efforts

Voyageurs National Park currently has research and monitoring underway with various partners to study amphibian populations, including amphibian song monitoring. These collaborative efforts will help scientists to:

- Document the presence of amphibian species at selected locations
- Create a baseline of amphibian species present and the relative abundance of those species at monitoring sites
- Monitor factors such as water depth, water temperature, and air temperature to see if there are correlations between those factors and amphibian abundance and densities at selected sites
- Note any changes in amphibian populations that may be indicative of changes in climate, water quality, or habitat quality

The amphibian monitoring data collected in Voyageurs National Park are being used in support of the [Terrestrial Wetland Global Change Research Network](#).



*Wood Frog (Lithobates sylvaticus)*

## Amphibians and You

Want to help scientists monitor and track amphibians in the park? It's easy! All you need is a smartphone with a camera and/or a microphone and an account with [herpmapper.org](http://herpmapper.org)! If you see any amphibians in the park, simply take a photo with your phone and upload it to herpmapper. If taking photos isn't an option, you can also make a recording of their song and upload that to herpmapper. If you do not know the species that you have, you can still upload your data and other members can identify it for you. Your contributions help scientists to monitor population sizes, species, and breeding seasons. Even the most common of species is useful data to upload! So what are you waiting for? Get out there and help contribute to science while enjoying nature!

## Opinion : Who or what's to blame?

Most environmental conservation groups insist that many species of animals and plants are becoming scarce and many even extinct. After reading about this year after year, I suppose the average person might become callous to the message. But, because so many of them are of the same similar message, a serious person interested in the environment and well-being of our Natural Heritage must believe these scientists and activists know what they are talking about. My own observations seem to agree: We have lived on the Champlin Mill Pond for 75 years. The Mill Pond is fed by Elm Creek just before the flowage enters the Mississippi River. We have been observant of the Pond and surrounding area's wildlife.

There were quite a few fish in the Mill Pond in the 1940s and 50s. One year we counted 14 fish houses on the ice.

We put up our first two Wood Duck houses in the mid 1960s. They were used immediately. As the years went by, we now have as many as 15 of these houses with approximately ½ of them used every year until about 2020 when only 4 of them were used. However, by the middle of June there seemed to be vacant nests and almost no Wood Ducks were seen in July. A few Wood Ducks showed up in mid-August to feed on acorns.

Meanwhile our 5 Bluebird houses used to harbor 2 Tree Swallows and 1 or 2 Bluebird nests on average. This year only 1 Bluebird and no Swallows nested. They are insect eaters. We used to have Phoebe or Peewee nests (fly catchers) attached to our downspouts. We also had a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers we could hear and sometimes see nearby. Back in the 1940's we had Red Headed Woodpeckers and Indigo Buntings; and Pheasants sometimes nested in our ½ acre of Alfalfa. The years before it became legal to shoot Mourning Doves, we generally had at least ½ dozen Doves around our property all summer and usually all winter. One year 17 Doves congregated in the bushes on the South side of the house every

morning most of the winter. Now we see only 1 or 2 pairs, often only a single and sometimes none.

We have noticed the last 2 years there is a lack of mosquitoes, flies, dragon flies and gnats. Especially this year. There used to be large snapping turtles and "box" turtles laying eggs in our garden; no more. Although we have a few toads, frogs which used to be abundant seem extinct here.

There used to be Kingfishers, Black Crowned Night Herons and Little Green Herons visible on some mornings at the edge of the Pond or on overhanging branches, but now we see only Big Blue Heron, but much less frequently than in the past.

Of course we know that development has taken a toll on many of these species, but the fly catching, and waterfowl species should not be so heavily affected. We are on 4½ acres of partially wooded land and most of these species should not be affected by surrounding development. There is also a couple of acres of woods adjacent to our property.

MY SUSPICIONS: Has mosquito control taken a toll of nutritious food many species need for themselves and their young? Has dredging the Mill Pond altered the food supply? Do other insects succumb to mosquito control?

From amphibians to waterfowl, to insect dependent species, something is responsible for the decline. I suspect the increasing human population, with its wants and needs are largely responsible.

I have yet to see a major conservation organization come to grips with the main cause of environmental degradation, the increasing of humans. They do allude to it sometimes but never offer a remedy!

However, the Center for Biological Diversity did hand out 40,000 free Endangered Species Condoms in the country's "most sexually satisfied cities" to help couples consider population growth's threat to wildlife and the planet". At least that brings some attention to the most basic problem.

*Dick Brown*

# Izaak Walton League of America

## Conservation Policies (2019)

### Population

1. 1) Because of the environmental impacts of population growth and movement on finite natural resources, the League urges governments and private agencies to conduct scientific research and encourage policies, attitudes, social standards, and programs that will—through voluntary actions consistent with human rights and individual conscience—bring about the stabilization of human population. Government and private efforts should include but not be limited to:
  - a) Developing a national policy on population and natural resources that integrates population, natural resources, and technology.
  - b) Incorporating sustainable development principles in U.S. policies, both foreign and domestic.
  - c) Developing goals for stabilizing populations that incorporate the principles of sustainable economic development, social equity, education, basic and reproductive health care, and environmental conservation.
  - d) Providing age appropriate education for people, especially students, on human development and the relationship between human populations and the environment.
  - e) Supporting efforts to stabilize population through family planning and by promoting equality between men and women.
2. 2) The League supports the right of all persons to freely decide the number and spacing of their children consistent with the dictates of individual conscience and accepted medical practice.

### Oxbow Park Bluebird Trail

Our Breckenridge Chapter has been monitoring a bluebird trail in Champlin's Oxbow Park for years. It is in a restored prairie planted on a dry sandy field several decades ago. The bluebird trail has a dozen houses and is a joy to monitor, both for the excitement of watching the bird's and the beautiful wildflowers surrounding them. This year we had bluebirds, house wrens, tree swallows, chickadees and nuthatches build nests. The bluebirds successfully fledged their initial brood and a second one too. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility in the future you can leave a message on the Breckenridge voicemail. Here is a list of the native forbs and grasses we saw there this year and a few pictures of some of the prettiest ones:



*Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly-weed)



*Lupinus perennis* (Wild Lupine)





*Geum triflorum* (Prairie Smoke)



*Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)

*Achillea millefolium* (Common Yarrow)  
*Agastache foeniculum* (Blue Giant Hyssop)  
*Allium stellatum* (Prairie Onion)  
*Amorpha canescens* (Lead Plant)  
*Antennaria parlinii* (Parlin's Pussytoes)  
*Artemisia ludoviciana* (White Sage)  
*Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly-weed)  
*Calylophus serrulatus* (Yellow Sundrops)  
*Cirsium discolor* (Field Thistle)  
*Crocanthemum bicknellii* (Hoary Frostweed)  
*Desmodium canadense* (Showy Tick-trefoil)  
*Drymocallis arguta* (Tall Cinquefoil)  
*Erigeron strigosus* (Prairie Fleabane)  
*Geum aleppicum* (Yellow Avens)  
*Geum triflorum* (Prairie Smoke)  
*Helianthus maximiliani* (Maximilian Sunflower)  
*Helianthus pauciflorus* (Stiff Sunflower)  
*Heterotheca villosa* (Hairy False Goldenaster)  
*Heuchera richardsonii* (Prairie Alumroot)  
*Lespedeza capitata* (Round-headed Bush Clover)  
*Liatris aspera* (Rough Blazing Star)  
*Liatris ligulistylis* (Northern Plains Blazing Star)

*Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)  
*Lupinus perennis* (Wild Lupine)  
*Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot)  
*Penstemon gracilis* (Slender Beardtongue)  
*Penstemon grandiflorus* (Large Beardtongue)  
*Persicaria amphibia* (Swamp Smartweed)  
*Physalis heterophylla* (Clammy Ground Cherry)  
*Rosa blanda* (Smooth Wild Rose)  
*Sisyrinchium campestre* (Prairie Blue-eyed Grass)  
*Solidago nemoralis* (Gray Goldenrod)  
*Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod)  
*Symphotrichum ericoides* (Heath Aster)  
*Verbena stricta* (Hoary Vervain)  
*Veronicastrum virginicum* (Culver's Root)  
*Vicia americana* (American Vetch)  
*Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem)  
*Dichanthelium boreale* (Northern Panic Grass)  
*Panicum virgatum* (Switchgrass)  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem)  
*Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian Grass)  
*Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Dropseed)

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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](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)**  
**Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Dark Sky Sanctuary

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area has been designated as a dark sky sanctuary by the International Dark Sky Association. It is just one of 13 such designations in the world. Another example is the Great Barrier Island in New Zealand. In order to qualify, it must be where the nocturnal environment is protected.

BWCA staff have been taking readings of the darkness for several years and will continue to do so in order to be re-qualified. It is estimated that 85% of the world's population lives where the Milky Way cannot be seen.

