



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
February March 2010
www.breckenridgeikes.org



Coming Events

March

- 09 Board Meeting 7:30 pm
23 Social/Educational Meeting
27 MN division IWLA & Freshwater
Society Wetlands/Agriculture/
Water Summit at Normandale
Comm. College

April

- 10-12 Minnesota Division Annual
Meeting @ Owatonna
13 Board Meeting 7:30 pm
27 Social/Education Meeting 7:30pm -
Ted Olson presenter,
"The Nature Conservancy"

May

- 2 Pancake Breakfast
11 Board Meeting 7:30 pm
25 Social/Education Meeting 7:30pm

*Volunteers for
refreshments needed.
Please call
Melissa Sonnenberg
if you can help.
763-549-8873*

Welcome New Members

**Jerry & Wendy Steele
George & Lee Barthel
Mark Lobeck
LeeAnn Mortensen
Ron and Terry Bickford**

A friend of Dr. Breckenridge, Conrad "Bud" Pyne, collected some of his art work in the mid 80's. To settle his estate the Pyne family will auction five original water colors, three etchings and two prints at an auction to be held at Luther Auctions in North St. Paul on April 12. Photos of the art will be available on the auction website, www.lutherauctions.com four days before the auction.

Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League of America 2-09-10 Meeting Notes

Attending: Steve Shaust, John Rust, Bruce Hansen, Bill Barton, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, Roger Williams, John Farley, Melissa Sonnenberg, Wes Hendrickson

There is one Open Board Seat please contact Steve Schaust if interested.

CALENDAR:

Feb. 23 Social Educational Meeting Bridgid Murphy – Great Lakes Piping Plover

March 9th BOD meeting

March 23rd Social Educational Meeting Darby Nelson Heritage Council

MARCH 27TH MN Division IWLA & Freshwater Society Wetlands / Agriculture / Water Summit @ Normandale Community College

April 9, 10, 11 Minnesota Division Annual Meeting @ Owatonna, John Rust, Dick Brown, Bill Barton, Steve Shaust, possibly Roger Williams, Wes Hendrickson for Sunday meeting.

April 13 BOD Meeting

April 27 Social Educational Meeting Ted Olson of Nature Conservancy

May 2 Pancake Breakfast

Possible speaker - Jennie Leete, DNR Ecological Services talk on fens

ISSUES:

Invasive Species and Twin Cities Locks: Motion Bill Barton Second Wes Hendrickson

The Breckenridge Chapter recommends that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America request that the US Army Corps of Engineers assess the Twin Cities lock and dam system operation and costs to determine viability and invasive species barrier potential. This request is based on decreased barge traffic and the unique capability of the Saint Anthony and #1 (Ford) dams to slow or prevent the spread of invasive species. Passed Unanimously

Sulfide Mining National Forest Land Sale or Transfer: Motion Bill Barton Second Jim Arnold The Breckenridge Chapter recommends that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America oppose the sale or transfer of Minnesota national forest lands for sulfide ore hard rock strip mining. Passed with one Abstention

Land Conservation: Motion Dick Brown, Second Wes Hendrickson: The Board of Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA urges a system be devised by the Minnesota Legislature whereby real estate taxpayers of low and modest income, pay a considerably less real estate tax on such portion of their land, according to an escalating scale based on their income. Also be it resolved: The landowner would be required to engage in an acceptable conservation easement governing the use of such property in perpetuity. Passed Unanimously

Coon Rapids Dam –\$8 million to repair, \$48 million to make power again, repair costs may be in bonding bill. We had Doug Brand, Jack Screpeck speak on this in the past. Motion Bill

Barton, Second John Rust: Due to bonding bill proposal we oppose spending of \$8 million dollars for repair of the Coon Rapids dam for other than safety issues at this time. Defeated 2 For 4 Against 1 Abstention Uof M is developing a 25 year framework for dedicated clean water funding and they have a website for a survey of individuals with room for your ideas. Please complete the survey and comment at <http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/MinnesotansandTheirWater/index.htm> The Water Resources Center phone number is 612-624-9282.

CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS:

We are looking for fireplace glass door panel replacement. A new rain cap for the fireplace flue is in the basement for someone to install (hint hint).

SCHOLARSHIPS: 19 sent out to schools for the scholarship. May be posted elsewhere, ask Jim if you need copies. Information is on the website and it was in the January / February Timberlines. Scholarship fund is paying for itself without general funds.

TREASURERS REPORT: No report.

NEWSLETTER: Brooklyn Park now has a community events page on the web! (Barb take note.) Write stuff up & take photos for timberlines / Waltonian. **Note deadline this month is February 25th for the March Timberlines.**

PRESIDENT: Barb is slated to be the chapter information officer and will be working with Noreen at the Minnesota Division office – congratulations! Minnesota Division is looking for photos of activities. Requested a review of arrangements for Valentines Tater Daze Dinner.

WEBSITE: No report

RENTALS: There will be ~50 people here for the Valentines Tater Daze Dinner Saturday February 13th. The advertisements state we are hosts, we understand this to mean we are giving them rent free use of the chapter house only. They will be setting up Friday February 12th as we have no other rentals on that day. Will be putting 2010 rental dates on the web calendar (Yahoo Breckcal.) Defective vacuum cleaner was returned and that equaled the supplies cost for the year. December 2010 looks like the best month for rentals in the coming year so far.

CORRESPONDENCE: ESTATE OF Conrad “Bud” Pyne that contains 5 watercolor /graphites, 3 Breckenridge etchings, and 2 Breckenridge prints that will be auctioned 4-12-10 at Luther Aucitons in North Saint Paul. Tax exempt forms for Island received from Anoka County – Steve Will reply. Thank you from MEF for use of chapter house for a meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: 102 renewing members – ask friends to renew or join to support conservation.

**BRECKENRIDGE CHAPTER OF IZAAK
WALTON LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
INVASIVE SPECIES & THE MISSISSIPPI
RIVER GORGE IN TWIN CITIES**

MOTION PASSED at the 2-9-2010 meeting

The Breckenridge Chapter recommends that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America request that the US Army Corps of Engineers assess the Twin Cities lock and dam system operation and costs to determine viability and invasive species barrier potential. This request is based on decreased barge traffic and the unique capability of the Saint Anthony and #1 (Ford) dams to slow or prevent the spread of invasive species.

Motion Bill Barton Second Wes Hendrickson - Passed
Unanimously

BACKGROUND

Barge traffic thru the Twin Cities locks has decreased by 50% in the last 5 years to well below the US Army Corps of Engineers viability threshold of 1 million tons per year (686, 470 tons). Traffic is less than 3% of the traffic thru the Melvin Price Lock near St. Louis. The Port of Minneapolis has essentially closed. The major use of the locks is for sand and gravel which are locally available around the Twin Cities.

Shipping volume has fallen below the critical 1-million-ton mark that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses to determine whether a lock is viable. Shipping thru the Twin Cities locks represents a federal tax subsidy of approximately \$20,000 per ton. (William Barton's rough estimate from available data 2-2010)

There has been no grain /agricultural products shipped thru the Twin Cities locks in the last five years. There has been no oil in the last five years and shipment of coal ceased in April of 2009 with the shutdown of the Excel Energy Riverside Coal Power Plant reducing tonnage by ~90,000 tons per year. Sand and gravel that is available literally all around the Twin Cities area makes up the major product shipped thru the Twin Cities locks. The shipment of sand and gravel last year decreased by 51% (466,040 tons) compared to the last five years average. Scrap Iron shipment thru the Twin Cities locks averages 73,132 tons per year over the last six years. (USACOE Lock Commodities Report)

Bighead and Silver carp have continued to migrate up the Mississippi River from Louisiana and have been caught just below the Hastings lock and dam. The carp have steadily made their way northward up the Mississippi, becoming the most abundant species in some areas of the River

"This is a National problem that is on the brink of becoming an environmental crisis of tremendous significance." MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES *Feasibility Study to Limit the Invasion of Asian Carp into the Upper Mississippi River Basin March 2005*

"1.4 million Minnesota anglers spend an amazing \$2.5 billion on their sport." USFWS

"...exotic fish species are associated with an estimated \$1 billion per year economic loss." (Pimentel et al., 2000).

The introduction of Aquatic Nuisance Species fish species has the potential to alter ecosystems and food webs (Pflieger, 1997) and cause extinction of some species (Taylor et al., 1984).

It is estimated that 44 species native to the United States are threatened or endangered by non-indigenous species. (Wilcove and Bean, 1994 in Pimentel et al., 2000).

Fifty-one (51) Mississippi River fish species have been listed on state and federal threatened and endangered (T&E) lists. Many of these species naturally occur in the Upper Mississippi River. MN DNR

The federal government is spending billions of dollars for Mississippi River ecosystem management and restoration. USACE, UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and PEIS (September 2004) UMRM act 1986, HREP, LTRMP, NESP

"1) Spread of Wild Populations via Interstate Waters ... NEW RECOMMENDATION: Pursue restoration of a physical fish barrier to prevent Asian carp from migrating upstream past St. Anthony Falls in the Mississippi River." *Preventing the Introduction of Asian Carp into Minnesota* MN DNR 2007

The only Mississippi Structures that are overflow dams capable of providing a physical barrier to invasive species are the two St. Anthony Falls dams, Ford Dam #1, Dam #19 and Dam #27.

Meeting Notice:

Social Educational Meeting-
March 23, 7:30 PM

Darby Nelson reports on the actions of the
Outdoor Heritage Council

March 23, Darby Nelson, member of the
Outdoor Heritage Council will speak on
the Council's accomplishments in the last
year and what they are considering for
2010.

He will explain the benefits of their pro-
posals and the Legislator's concerns.
He may explain the sizes, locations and
their environmental values.

Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production

Agriculture and water are vital to all of us on a most basic level. They are also inseparably linked. The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, with assistance from the Freshwater Society proudly announces the 2010 edition of the annual Wetlands Summit,

Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production

on Saturday, March 27th, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Normandale Community College in Bloomington.

The goal of this year's summit is to bring farmers, researchers, conservationists, students, and anyone interested in working together to protect our water resources while ensuring productive farms. The summit features interactive presentations on emerging solutions, along with information about how citizens can get involved to help drive this forward-looking discussion.

The morning session kicks off with Bruce Wilson and Gary Sands from the University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering discussing the history of agricultural drainage in Minnesota and strategies for reducing water leaving the land and reducing the flow of nitrogen to surface waters. It also features practical, on-the-ground experiences in production and water management systems from Jim Stordahl, extension educator and farmer from Polk and Clearwater Counties (Northwest MN) and Tony Thompson, owner of Willow Lake Farm near Windom (Southwest MN). Tony Thompson is a corn, soybean, and native plant farmer and nationally-renowned expert on ecologically and economically sustainable farming.

This year's special luncheon keynote speech will be given by Jon Foley, Director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment (IonE). Dr. Foley's speech will be "**The Other Inconvenient Truth: A Global Challenge for Agriculture and the Environment**" about the challenges of feeding our growing world population while protecting the land and water resources necessary to sustain the planet.

Afternoon breakout sessions will feature Scott

Sparlin, Watershed Initiative Coordinator for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley talking about conservation drainage and raingardens in an innovative project he leads to restore High Island Lake and watershed in New Auburn, MN. The *Nature Conservancy* will present pioneering work in the area of "*Two-Stage Ditches*" for minimizing the amount of sediment and nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) that are transported from ditch to stream to river to sea. Barry Draskowski, Director of GeoSpatial Services at St Mary's University in Winona and member of the Will Dilg Chapter will speak on mapping and the importance of knowing where wetland complexes were in effective planning of water management and conservation systems. Brad Redlin, Director of Agriculture Programs for the Izaak Walton League of America will talk about the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and how farmers and the public can participate in the USDA's conservation advisory committees.

The ***Agriculture and Water Summit 2010*** will conclude with a general session in which a panel of presenters and the audience will develop a list of common-ground objectives and actions aimed at fostering positive changes in local, state, and federal policies.

The cost of the workshop is \$20 for participants, \$15 for students and includes a box lunch. (Registrations received after Friday March 12th will be \$25 for participants, \$20 for students). For registration and more information go to www.minnesotaiikes.org. Or you may contact the Minnesota Division office at ikes@minnesotaiikes.org or 651-221-0215.

Volunteers are needed to help with registration (8 to 9:30am), videotaping, and other tasks. To volunteer, contact Jill Crafton, IWLA-Bush Lake Chapter, 952-944-5583

jwcrafton@rkmc.com or John Crampton, 612-396-6010, jcrampt@comcast.net.

REGISTRATION

2010 Agriculture & Water Summit:

Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production
(5th Edition Wetlands Summit)

Yes! I would like to attend the Agriculture & Water Summit, March 27, 2010
at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN.

NAME:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

Phone 1:

Phone 2:

EMAIL:

Registration by March 15: \$20.00 general participant, \$15.00 student participant
AFTER MARCH 15: \$25.00 general participant, \$20.00 student participant

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order only made out to Minnesota Division, IWLA,

Please indicate Ag & Water Summit in the "memo"

Mail to: Ag & Water Summit, C/O Minnesota Division IWLA, 161 St. Anthony Ave, Ste.
910, St. Paul, MN 55103

ENCLOSED: \$ _____ \$20.00 X _____ General & \$15.00 X _____ Student(s)
AFTER MARCH 15 \$25.00 X _____ General & \$20.00 X _____ Student(s)

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING ADDITIONAL PEOPLE FROM YOUR
ORGANIZATION PLEASE

ADD THEIR NAMES, ADDRESSES (IF DIFFERENT) PHONE AND EMAIL BELOW:
THANK YOU

Confirmation of registration will be mailed or emailed on receipt of payment

The following resolution has been passed by the Breckenridge Chapter Board of Directors and has been sent to the MN Division IWLA Resolution Committee. That committee will check for proper form and whether it is consistent with purposes and areas of concern to the League.

If so, it will go to the MN DIV April Convention in Owatonna for a vote by the delegates. If passed it could serve as a precedent for future position papers on the subject. The resolution and/or related positions could then be sent to MN Legislators and agencies or other concerned organizations.

RESOLUTION
**A TOOL TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR
NATURAL HERITAGE**

As we struggle to invent ways to preserve and protect our Natural Heritage from division, overcrowding and development, all phases of our population need to become involved. An overlooked resource is landowners of low or modest income, many of which are retired and own relatively large parcels of land.

With rising property tax assessments there is a great tendency to divide and/or sell parcels not only for cash but in many cases to escape their escalating real estate taxes. Many of these owners would prefer to keep their land in a natural state or to pass it to their heirs in a natural state. But increasingly neither they nor their heirs can afford to do so. It should also be noted that, because of their low income, many of these land owners are not eligible to take advantage of federal income tax deductions available to those who choose conservation easements through organizations like the Minnesota Land Trust.

Undeveloped woodlands, wetlands and prairies that are not used for commercial purposes can serve as a strong nucleus for wildlife preservation, both flora and fauna. Birds and animals that are raised on these properties will disperse either themselves or by their offspring to nearby areas. So will seeds of endemic plants. Inadvertently, much needed wildlife corridors may be established. We know that wetlands, forests and prairies that stay intact are good for groundwater, surface water and the air we breathe as well as wildlife and the general public. Such parcels would be a great benefit far beyond their borders.

Therefore, we need to devise a system whereby the low and modest income landowner will be inspired to neither develop, divide nor destroy the natural amenities of their property.

Therefore be it resolved: The Board of the Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA urges a system be devised by the Minnesota Legislature whereby real estate taxpayers of low and modest income pay a considerable less real estate tax on such portion or their land, according to an escalating scale based on their income.

Also be it resolved The landowner would be required to engage in an acceptable conservation easement governing the use of such property in perpetuity.

Author: Richard P. Brown
2/09/2010

**BRECKENRIDGE CHAPTER OF IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SALE OR TRANSFER OF MINNESOTA NATIONAL
FOREST LANDS FOR SULFIDE STRIP MINING**

MOTION PASSED at the 2-9-2010 meeting

The Breckenridge Chapter recommends that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America oppose the sale or transfer of Minnesota national forest lands for sulfide ore hard rock strip mining.

Motion Bill Barton Second Jim Arnold - Passed with one Abstention

BACKGROUND

Sale or transfer of national forest land for the purpose of sulfide strip mining is not consistent with the intent of the 1911 Weeks Act. The Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 (Public No. 435.) does not allow strip mining of National Forest Lands. The national forest lands that would be destroyed by this project are protected "to secure the maintenance of a perpetual growth of forest." The NorthMet project is contrary to the purpose of the Weeks Act. Quoting Henry S. Graves, forester, US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (issued march 27, 1911) on the purpose of the Weeks Act: *"The general purpose of this law is to secure the maintenance of a perpetual growth of forest on the watersheds of navigable streams where such growth will materially aid in preventing floods, in improving low waters, in preventing erosion of steep slopes and the silting up of the river channels, and thereby improve the flow of water for navigation. While the improvement of the flow of navigable streams is the fundamental purpose, other benefits incidental in character but nevertheless important will be kept in view. Among these are (1) protection against disastrous erosion of the soil on mountain slopes and against the destruction of the soil and soil cover by forest fires; (2) preservation of water powers, since, like navigation, they depend for their value upon the evenness of streamflow; (3) preservation of the purity and regularity of flow of the mountain streams, with a view to their use for the water supply of towns and cities; (4) preservation of a timber supply to meet the needs of the industries of the country; (5) preservation of the beauty and attractiveness of the uplands for the recreation and pleasure of the people."*

[PUBLIC-NO. 435.] [H. R. 11798]

"AN ACT To enable any State to cooperate with any other State or States, or with the United States, for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams, and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers.

Continued on the next page

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of

America in Congress assembled, That the consent of the Congress of the United States is hereby given to each of the several States of the Union to enter into any agreement or compact, not in conflict with any law of the United States, with any other State or States for the purpose of conserving the forests and the water supply of the States entering into such agreement or compact....

...SEC. 9. That such acquisition may in any case be conditioned upon the exception and reservation to the owner from whom title passes to the United States of the minerals and of the merchantable timber, or either or any part of them, within or upon such lands **at the date of the conveyance**, but in every case such exception and reservation and the time within which such timber shall be removed and the rules and regulations under which the cutting and removal of such timber and **the mining and removal of such minerals shall be done shall be expressed in the written instrument of conveyance**, ...” (emphasis added)

Passage of single project federal legislation for Northmet would result in land transfer before completion of the environmental process. According to the proposed 2007 HR 4292/S3411, the U.S. Forest Service would be required to sell 6,700 acres of public land to PolyMet before completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This is contrary to the National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and negates the purpose of the EIS, which is to allow for disclosure of environmental impacts of an action and for public input. There is an existing process for the Forest Service to exchange lands with private companies but exchange takes place after review that is open to the public in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement. This bill would circumvent that existing process. The sale would be conducted without the normal public input and without environmental review of the land exchange.

A single project land sale or transfer would be separate from the mine plan review and is contrary to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). No administrative appeal of the sale would have been allowed under HR 4292/S 3411, disregarding public input by specifically denying appeal of the outcome.

The 2007 bill HR 4292/S3411 would have also required that the U.S. Forest Service assume the responsibility for wetland replacement contrary to existing law and rules.

A single project land sale or transfer would be a special favor for the benefit of a single Canadian mining company. A single project land sale or transfer bill would bypass existing law and the normal process by which National Forest land is transferred to private entities through a proven land exchange process, which requires environmental review and verification that the swap is in the public interest. The Forest Service says it cannot allow a

strip mine on this forestland because of the environmental protections that currently protect the forest, water and wildlife located there. PolyMet's plans call for a massively destructive open pit strip mine. PolyMet needs to privatize the USFS land before its plans for a copper strip mine can go forward.

The U. S. Forest Service owns less than half of the mineral estate in the Superior National Forest and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Likewise, the Forest Service lacks mineral rights to many of its lands nationwide. This bill, if passed, could set precedence for the sale of public lands to private mining companies across the country. It would also open the doors for more than a dozen other mining companies who are currently exploring the Duluth Complex of rocks throughout Minnesota and other sulfide mineral deposits in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. These sulfide-bearing rocks encompass an area that extends underneath the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and between Voyageurs National Park and Lake Superior, before dipping down into the southern part of the state.

Passage of single project federal legislation for Northmet would result in ignoring potential harm to the environment enabled by the sale or transfer. The hidden purpose of a land sale or transfer bill would be to remove long standing environmental review and protections from public lands. A sale or transfer under these conditions would create a precedent by which the Superior National Forest could sell public lands each time a mine gets close to the permitting phase. A sale or transfer bill would relieve the Forest Service of their responsibilities to protect public lands in Minnesota. This could become a justification elsewhere; each time a federal land agency chooses to ignore its mandated management responsibilities in order to rapidly facilitate mining operations.

Passage of single project federal legislation for Northmet would set a precedent for the sale of public lands to mining companies across the nation where the Forest Service does not own the mineral rights to its lands and would pave the way for the sale of public lands throughout Minnesota's Arrowhead Region.

The potential effects of acid mine drainage are serious and have always accompanied this type of mining. Sulfuric acid is a byproduct of metallic sulfide mining and in all previous mines required perpetual treatment of any affected watershed.

Donate to the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Did you know you can donate to the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter on the internet using a credit card?

Yes you can!

- 1) Go to GiveMN.org
- 2) Search for “Walter J Breckenridge Chapter”
- 3) Click on the entry that says:
“Izaak Walton League of America Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter”

And like magic a page will come up (see below) that will allow you to use your credit card to donate to our chapter! Try it and see for yourself.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GiveMN.org website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Izaak-Walton-League-Of-America-Walter-J-Breckenridge-Chapter>. The website header includes the GiveMN.org logo with the tagline "Click. Contribute. Change Your World." and a search bar. The main content area features a blue header for the "Izaak Walton League of America Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter" with the subtext "A US registered nonprofit" and the location "Brooklyn Park, MN". A large circular logo for the Izaak Walton League of America is displayed, featuring a silhouette of a man's head and the text "DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE" and "THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.". To the right of the main content, there is a "Nonprofit Information" section with the address "8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444" and EIN "237065334". Below this is a "Make a Donation" section with a dollar sign input field, a green "Donate" button, a blue "Follow" button, and a section for "3 followers" with three small profile icons. At the bottom of the right sidebar is a "Fundraising" section with a red "Fundraise" button. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including "start", "Inbox - Microsoft Out...", "Visual SourceSafe Ex...", "john3@SLP", "MapInfo Professional...", "oz.ipr - [C:]Document...", and "Izaak Walton League ...". The system clock shows "11:54 AM".

The Great Lakes Piping Plover

Brigid Murphy, a wildlife and biology major at the University of Minnesota presented in February, to the Breckenridge Chapter on the endangered Piping Plover of the Great Lakes region. Brigid has previously presented at the Breckenridge chapter on her trip to the rain forest and Orangutans of Borneo. There are 3 main areas/populations of Piping Plover in the US: 1) the Great Plains population, 2) the Great Lakes population, 3) the East Coast Atlantic/Gulf population. Last summer Brigid spent 2 months working with researchers studying the endangered Great lakes Piping Plover. This work included banding, identification, monitoring, and protecting these rare shore birds that nest along the wide open beaches of the Great Lakes. The Piping Plover is a bird that looks and has similar habits to the more common Killdeer, both of which nest on the ground, and are found in open areas. Piping Plovers arrive in the Great Lakes area in April and have a 3-4 month breeding season. They nest on wide open beach areas in May. The spotted grey eggs hatch in late June or July. The nest is a barely discernable cup in the sand which may contain 3-4 eggs. Researchers put large cages around the nests which exclude predators that may eat and destroy the eggs. The parents are small enough so that they can enter and exit the cages. In 2008 there were 63 pairs of mated piping plovers monitored. In 2009 there were 71 pairs monitored. If one of the adults caring for a nest goes missing, the researchers gather the eggs, as they are unlikely to hatch with a single parent tending the nest. The recovered eggs are incubated, hatched, and cared for in a captive rearing program. Once they are old enough to make it on their own, they are released into the wild, where natural instincts for survival take over. Brigid is a recent Breckenridge Chapter scholarship recipient, and plans to continue working in wildlife and biology this summer doing water bird surveys. She recently worked in Thailand helping with the Indochinese tiger of which there are little more than 1200 left in the wild. Stay tuned – we may have a chance to have her present on tigers of Thailand! – John Rust



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.”

Worried...

Opinion

The mining companies are going to say whatever they want to say to try to get state approval of the mines. It may create some jobs for a while, but I really worry about what the long term consequences might be, and if there may be an extensive clean up once the mine is closed. I am not currently unemployed, but if I were unemployed, certainly would be interested in finding a job - possibly at a mine. But I also know that the economy in the Arrowhead region is partly tourist driven, with fishing, canoeing, hunting, and

hiking. Acid water run-off might destroy that for some streams and creeks, and the state of MN, or the US federal government would be required to clean it up. Having seen photographs of some of these mines in the dry western US leech off tailing piles into streams and creeks, turning them red and yellow with toxic run-off I am very concerned about what could happen here in Minnesota. The watershed in the Arrowhead region flows in three directions: North to the Arctic, East to the Atlantic, and South to the Gulf of Mexico. Being a headwaters area, am very concerned about this new type of sulfur mine in Minnesota.

– John Rust