



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
June 2016
www.breckenridgeikes.org

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Coming Events

June

- 14** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Tim Schlagenhaft: Restoring
Lake Pepin

July

- 12** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Lee Lewis: The Enbridge Pipeline
Challenge

August

- 09** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00
23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

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

Guess What you missed last month at the Chapter House? May

The month in review

May 1 we had a GREAT Pancake
breakfast and plant sale. We had
a record crowd in attendance.
The plant sale went really well
and made us some money.
Thanks to all who donated plants
and those who bought some.

Thank you also to everyone that
worked at the Pancake breakfast.
It is always such a fun event.

We had the Boy Scouts have a
sleep over at the chapter house.
They had Great weather for their
event. We also had a fund raising
event for Park Center baseball.

Our speaker was John Trauger
and was very interesting. Judy
Arnold brought treats for the 45
people that attended.

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Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

May 10th, 2016

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

IWLA Member Pledge: We strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, 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.

May 10 th	Board of Directors Meeting
May 24 th	Social/Education Meeting
June 14 th	Board of Directors Meeting
June 28 th	Social/Education Meeting
July 12 th	Board of Directors Meeting
July 26 th	Social/Education Meeting

Attendees: Steve Schaust, Patrice Lindgren, John Fraley, Dick Brown, Tim Johnson, Wes Hendrickson, Barbara Franklin, Dennis Leslie, Jim Arnold, Joe Klohs

Guest: John Rust, Marlys Carls-Steiskal

Events/Issues.....Dick/Larry/Jim
 Social/Education Meeting Speakers
 May – David Trauger, “Too Little, Too Late: Human Overpopulation and Climate Disruption”
 June – Tim Schlagenhaft: Restoring Lake Pepin
 July – Lee Lewis: The Enbridge Pipeline Challenge
 Thank you, to all of the volunteers that helped to make the pancake

breakfast a great success.

Summer Board of Directors meeting date, July 29th-30th. Fall Board of Directors meeting October 28th-30th.

IWLA National Convention 2016 will be held in Stevens Point WI, July 19th–22nd.

John Rust presented the Resolution on Cattle Grazing in the Upper Green River Area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Tim Johnson made a motion to approve the resolution, it was seconded. Motion passed.

Chapter House & GroundJoe/Jim/Steve

House & Grounds Taskforce update
 The Taskforce has been looking into how we could apply forrain garden grant.

Wes Hendrickson made a motion to move forward with the application for the rain garden grant, it was seconded. Motion passed.

Newsletter Marlys

Several suggestions were made on how we could expand the content of the newsletter.

Treasurer’s ReportJohn

Update was given.

ScholarshipsJim

Scholarship applications are being reviewed by the committee.

WebmasterBarb

All summer programs have been posted to our website.

RentalsTim

Update was given.

Membership Lorraine

The Board is looking for a new Membership Chair, anyone interested in the position should contact Steve Schaust.

David Trauger: Climate Disruption & Overpopulation May 25, 2016

Dr. David Trauger's May 24, 2016 presentation on the relationships of human population and growth, its ecological and economic consequences, climate impacts, and what we have to look forward to if actions are not promptly considered are issues Ikes continually hide from.

Accordingly, our Breckenridge Chapter is to be enthusiastically commended for raising this most fundamental and important issue –even as the Midwest Division and National IWLA suppress it.

Dr. Trauger's thesis statement to the Ikes is as follows:

Momentum of human population growth and accelerating pace of global climate disruption in the face of societal change inertia and political denial realities are rapidly foreclosing opportunities for humanity to avert ecological disaster and avoid collapse of civilization.

Discussing his "thesis", in his "2020 Vision", he list a "perfect storm of ecological and economic calamities:"

- Peak Oil
- Water Depletion
- Land-use Change
- Resource Depletion
- Federal Bankruptcy
- Biodiversity Crisis
- Ocean Acidification
- Ecosystem Toxification
- Ecological Overshoot
- Economic Collapse

As we examine societies today, the inescapable conclusion is that Dr. Trauger is correct, ecocide is underway, resource limits have been significantly exceeded, governments are often bankrupt (spiraling debt, interest expense) and embezzle resources from the future (i.e., our children and grandchildren) in an impossible attempt to maintain the status quo, and economies are faltering everywhere. It all begins with population and reducing its growth. For the U.S. and developed nations it means to stop all in-migration and implement a comprehensive population policy. Although, momentum implies a steady state will not be achieved for years, the environmental, economic, and social benefits will be significant, evident immediately and help with the passage through the current bottleneck.

Write up and picture by:

Dell Erickson



2016-17 Scholarship Recipients Selected

By Jim Arnold

The scholarship committee met recently to select four talented students who will receive Breckenridge Chapter scholarships for the 2016-17 school year. Kayla Berry attended our May meeting. We will introduce the other three students at our June 28th meeting.

Sofia Vrba, a graduate of Maple Grove High School, has just finished her freshman year at the University of Minnesota. She writes that, "My passion for curing diseases has not diminished, but it has been slightly modified by my experiences in college." Her long range plan is to enter a MD/PHD program that will prepare her to conduct research on infectious diseases, especially those that have been created by our disregard of the environment.

As a result of being exposed to information regarding the current agricultural methods for raising meat, Sophie has researched the impact of animal agriculture on the environment. Her findings caused her to join groups like Compassion for Animals and the Sustainability Committee on campus. She writes, "Eating the meat is not the issue but the current practices in place to obtain the meat are destroying the environment."

As a participant in the Carleton Summer Science Institute Sophie performed research on the effects of global warming on gene transcription in plants and studied how global warming is affecting plant yield. Her list of volunteer work is impressive. In addition to those activities previously mentioned she is an active member of Chi Omega Fraternity and Habitat for Humanity. This summer

she plans to begin volunteering at Hennepin County Medical Center. Last summer she served as an avian nurse at The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville and released over 2,000 birds to the wild. She will continue that work this summer. **Emily Nagel**, a graduate of Red Wing High School, attends the University of Minnesota where she is majoring in geography focusing on environmental and social studies. She is considering a minor in either Spanish or Nonprofit Management. After graduation she plans to pursue a career using geographic information science (GIS) in land conservation with the state or national government.

"Reality 101", a course Emily took last semester, has had a major impact on how she views the world. Emily writes, "This class opened my eyes to the injustices that come with our current energy use, including the exclusion of most of earth's humans from prosperity and the human domination of nearly all non-human life."

This spring Emily has begun attending Citizens Climate Lobby meetings (a nonpartisan political group that is working for a carbon fee and dividend system) with the Twin Cities Chapter. During the summer she will be working on an energy and environment book with one of her professors.

Recreationally, Emily spent a week out west over spring break where she was able to camp, hike and climb in three national parks. This summer she is looking forward to spending a week whitewater kayaking in Grand Ronde.



(Continued on page 5)

(Scholarship Recipients continued)

Kathryn Breuckman of Andover High School is our newest scholarship recipient. She will begin her college career at St. Thomas this fall where she plans to major in engineering, biology, chemistry or environmental science. Her career goals currently are very broad, but will likely involve the natural sciences with a focus on the environment and health. In her application she wrote that, "A career as a research scientist, engineer/bioengineer, or teacher are alluring to me."

Kathryn's outdoor activities include camping, rock climbing, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. She has been active athletically at Andover and plans to continue competing in Nordic skiing at St. Thomas.

The Breckenridge Chapter has now awarded 75 five hundred dollar scholarships in the eighteen years of the program. The main source of funding for these scholarships is an endowment fund established through the generosity of members. The endowment began with an initial donation from the estate of Irene Swanson in the summer of 1999, followed shortly thereafter by sizeable donations from Cynthia Haugland and Walter and Dorothy Breckenridge. The endowment continues to grow, thanks primarily to generous donations each year from Larry Swanson and Tom and Marilyn Breckenridge. When earnings from the endowment are not sufficient to cover the scholarships costs, fund raisers (like the annual silent auction) and special donations from other members have been used. Thanks to all those members who have made it possible to support local young people as they study for their environmental careers. If you have questions about the Breckenridge Chapter scholarship program please contact one of the committee members: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin.

Social/educational meeting treat list

June 28 meeting: Barb Franklin
July 26: Lorraine Spears/Mona Geeting

Please contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

Thank you



NEEDED:

Membership Secretary

Your chapter needs YOU

All applicants may
contact Steve Schaust.
Please
Someone,
Please

Banfill Island

By Tim Johnson

Our Chapter's Mississippi island got its name from the original settler, Colonel John Banfill of Manomin.¹ Mr. Banfill established the Banfill Tavern (currently the site of Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts) in 1847. At first it was a residence and office for local logging operations. After 1852 it also became a stop for soldiers and fur traders who traveled the course of the newly built Red River Trail (a commerce trail stretching from Winnepeg, MB to St. Paul, MN). Mr Banfill also represented the 24th Senate District of Minnesota Territory (though his election was considered fraudulent by some). He was also Minnesota's first State Auditor.

Father Hennepin is thought to be the first European to mention the island. On returning down the Rum River after his release from a kidnapping by native Amercians he mentioned camping on the island. Before the island was given the name of Banfill Island, it was known as Little Casey Island².

Banfill Island's size is about 27 acres. The majority of the island is in Brooklyn Park but the portion east of the highest ridge is part of Anoka County. Our island is about half way between Anoka at the Rum River mouth and Minneapolis and there is a historic "half way" house on the west bank across from the island.

Prior to 1847, the Manomin area was mostly a wilderness site. In the early 1840's some logs were floated down the Rum River into the Mississippi,

then down to mills in St Anthony³. Later, the lumber men built rock dams on the west channel around Banfill island and a chain of small rock filled islands (cribs) upstream of the island to attach log booms to. These structures and the islands were aquired through Minnesota laws of eminent domain and owned by the Mississippi and Rum River Boom Company. The loggers would also camp on the island. The west side channel was filled with logs late in the season to freeze in and provide an early fresh supply of logs the next year. Eventually the loggers depleted the forests of the mature trees in the Rum River drainage which extends up to Lake Mille Lacs and they moved on north. To this day it is possible to find some signs of this activity such as old boom chains left behind on the sandy island by these men.

Eventually after the logging era the title to Banfill Island was obtained by Northern States Power Company (NSP). In 1969, the island was donated to the University of Minnesota by NSP and was used for conservation research. In 1980, after research had ended, it was sold to the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League for \$100 after the University ended its research work there. The Chapter's goal was to preserve it in its natural condition.

The late Dr. Walter Breckenridge, curator of the Bell Museum and long time Ike, used this island for some of his research and filmed a movie here called "Island Treasure". Copies of the film on DVD can still be acquired from the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota.

(Banfill Island Continued)

In that film he commented on the distribution of tree species across the island. Flood tolerant riparian species like cottonwood, box elder, and silver maple prefer the lower elevations. The entire island can be submerged in unusually high spring floods. On the higher elevations also grow the hackberry, and basswood trees. Previous to the exotic invasion of the dutch elm beetle, the American elm was also represented on the island.

Spring wild flowers on the higher ridges include, bloodroot, dutchman's breeches and trout lilly.

Dr. Breckenridge identified over 200 species of birds on the island. Bald eagles refurbish their nest on the island every year and the eaglets are usually banded by DNR personnel before they fledge. Wild turkeys, wood chuck, raccoons, otter, beaver, spiny softshell turtles (along with 5 other turtle species), fox, and coyote's make use of the natural habitat too. Recently the DNR has been working on a census of the flora on the island in which Chapter members assisted.

The island is visited by a herd of whitetail deer year round. The deer which thrive with no natural predators and supplemental feeding by local human residents, have increased in numbers and are over the natural carrying capacity. They have browsed so heavily that regeneration of native species is suffering. The City of Brooklyn Park makes arrangements each year with local bow hunters to hunt the deer during a special limited season in the fall.

Our Izaak Walton League Chapter is proud to do our part in continuing to preserve one of the rare natural areas left in the urban river corridor.

¹ The settlement of Manomin is now named Fridley, this after the last name of its second settler Abram M Fridley. Manomin is the Ojibwe word for wild rice. In line with this name Manomin, the principal creek draining the area, Rice Creek, was named by the Ojibwe "river full of wild rice" and by the Dakota "wild rice river". However, the Minnesota Historical Society claims the river was named after one of Minnesota's State's first pair of federal Senators, Henry Mower Rice. Henry's brother Edmund Rice differs on this and said the stream named after Henry is actually the one in St. Paul called Rice Brook. As an aside, Rice Creek, whose headwaters are near Forest Lake has a 23 mile canoeable water trail following its course from the Peltier Lake Boat Landing in Lino Lakes to the Mississippi River in Fridley.

² The following quotation from Breckenridge's biography Walter J. Breckenridge, My Life in Natural History, An Autobiography. "We immediately began wondering about the history of the island. I looked up some old maps in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society and found one dated 1887 showed it as Casey's Island. We never learned who Casey was, but shortly after moving to Baltimore our daughter, Barbara, met a fellow, Tom Casey, whose family had owned river property directly opposite The Brackens for many years. He still made yearly trips there to check up on it. It's a small world!"

**W. J. Breckenridge
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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.”

Our Chapter House is for rent

Rental rates for events at our Chapter house were adjusted going forward for 2016. The changes made actually make rates easier to remember and more fair because we have equalized the fee for all weekend days and holidays. That means the rental fees for Sunday and all holidays were raised to equal what we have been charging for Friday and Saturdays nights. This will not affect the rates charged for scouting events which will remain at \$50 per event.

Chapter House Rental Rates*

Non-Members: (damage deposit: \$300.00; \$200 for previous renters) □

Monday through Thursday \$275.00
(effective 1/1/16) □

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays....
\$350.00 (effective 1/1/16) □

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)