



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
April 2019

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



## COMING EVENTS

### APRIL 2019

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

### MAY 2019

- 5 Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale 8 am-1 pm
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm

Social/Educational Meeting

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019 7:30 p.m.**

**Tim Johnson**

**Paddling the Noatak River**

Two summers ago one of our members who thought he was too old for far north wilderness canoe paddling found otherwise. His daughter and son-in-law persuaded him to take several weeks to paddle down a river known especially for its high concentration of grizzly bears. Having paddled many far north rivers over the years and never having seen a grizzly bear along the way, Tim Johnson was easily persuaded. Using GoPro movie and a zoom digital point-and-shoot cameras, they kept a record of their journey down the Noatak River from near its source in the Brooks Range Gates of the Arctic National Park down to the native village of Noatak not too far from the Chukchi Sea. Upon his return Tim learned that fellow Ikes, Darby & Geri Nelson had paddled the same route earlier with their children and a young

grandchild. Come see and hear their stories at next month's Social/Ed meeting.

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House of the Izaak Walton League of America, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park.



# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes March 12, 2019

A quorum of board members was present: Steve, Tim, Joe, John, Karen, Jim, Wes and Dick attended.

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:

Dick updated us on Oxbow Park's North Arm prairie restoration to benefit pollinators. Things still look on track at Champlin City Hall for this project.

Joe summarized proceedings of recent meeting with Brooklyn Park (also attended by Jim and Larry) about the priorities for spending the \$500,000 in bond money on natural resources. He sees a side benefit in this being a good opportunity to attract new members if we offer to hold future meetings at our Chapter House.

Dick Brown supported a draft population resolution. The draft resolution was tabled by the BOD. Dick agreed to convene a sub-committee meeting of interested members to further discuss and modify a new population resolution.

Steve Thomforde (Restoration Ecologist) has been contacted as a potential speaker for May. We may be able to have him advise us on restoration of degraded areas on Banfill Island and projects in Champlin and Brooklyn Park. Tim volunteered to do a presentation on the Noatak River for April.

Joe proposed the Breckenridge Chapter have a member on the Brooklyn Park "Tree City" committee. The BOD approved a motion to appoint Joe as our representative.

Plans for May 5<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast were discussed including recruitment of new members at the door. Concurrent plant sale plans were discussed. A list of unacceptable invasive plants will be made. Plants

that do not sell will be donated to the Champlin Garden Club unless donors choose to take theirs' home. Raffle items are welcome. A suggestion was made by Tim to offer vegetarian sausage for a premium. Discussion was had on finding ways to eliminate single serving plastic items at our pancake breakfasts.

Jim updated the Board on scholarships – The endowment fund is growing slowly with our conservative investment strategy. The BOD gave permission to the scholarship committee to have five individual scholarships increased up to \$1,000 as they find it feasible.

John presented Treasurer's report – Winter plowing bills have yet to be paid. Income from Zonolite Trust and Division Energy grant expected soon.

## Building and Grounds:

- Bathroom – Joe updated the BOD on bathroom remodel plans.
- Furnace – Need to replace the current old one this summer.
- Ice dam problems – We still need to add some foam insulation in gaps around heat vents.
- TV & stand – We will recycle the old TV/VCR and use stand in the basement.
- Banfill Island maintenance – John Moriarity and NPS representative have agreed to walk the island with members after high waters recede with an eye to managing invasive plants and over-browsing.

**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)**

**Apr 23 - Karen Ostenso  
May 28 - Judy Arnold  
June 25 -**





# Help Needed

The Pancake Breakfast is our largest and most important fund raiser of the year. It also introduces many new folks to our organization. Please consider helping with one or more of the following:

- **Saturday, May 4th – 9 am to noon.**

Decorate and organize the Chapter House, put up tables and chairs, organize the area for the plant sale, finish cleaning up the grounds, bring plants for the plant sale.

- **Sunday, May 5th – 8 am to 2 pm.**

Work one or more of the 2½ hour shifts at the Pancake Breakfast (see options below). We need workers for the following tasks:

**\*Sunday first shift (8 to 10:30)** – Pancakes, Kitchen, Beverages/tables, Cashier

**\*Sunday second shift (10:30 to 1)** – Pancakes, Kitchen, Beverages/tables, Cashier

- **Sunday clean up (1 to 3 pm)**
- **Sunday plant sale (8 am to 1 pm)**

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a significant contribution to the Breckenridge Chapter. Please contact Jim Arnold (763 560 8972 or [jjarnold@Q.com](mailto:jjarnold@Q.com)) if you can help with one or more of these activities. Or, say yes when Jim calls you.

## Non-native species

In keeping with our organization's policy of promoting native plants, here is a list of non-native invasive plants not accepted at our plant sale:

Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)  
Asiatic Dayflower (*Commelina communis*)  
Burning-bush (*Euonymus alatus*)  
Common Periwinkle/Vinca (*Vinca minor*)  
Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)  
Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*)  
Crown Vetch or Axseed (*Coronilla varia*)  
Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)  
Day Lily (*Hermerocallis fulva*)  
Japanese Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)  
Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)  
Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)  
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)  
Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)  
Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*)  
Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)  
Tiger Lily (*Lilium lancifolium*)  
Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

## Aiding pollinators

There appears to be a bill in both MN House and Senate to appropriate Two Million dollars to help pay individual homeowners, schools and cities for lawn conversions to favorable plants for Bees and other pollinators.



The program would be specifically aimed at helping the endangered species, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. The program would cover about 75% of the cost and more in strategic areas. The sponsors are Rep. Kelly Morrison DFL and Sen. Jim Abler R of Anoka. The article was in the *Strib*, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Breckenridge members should call their Representatives and Senators and let them know that as Ike members we support such action. It is said that even White Clover in your lawn is a good source of food for the Bees, etc.

*Dick Brown*

## Where's the Publicity? Where is the Outrage?

An enormous oil leak has been spewing into the Gulf of Mexico since 2004 and I never heard of it until last week. It came to light in 2010 when the Deepwater Horizon spill was being monitored. An oil sheen of 8 square miles (!) was seen that was unrelated to the Deepwater disaster. In 2015 an Associated Press reporter investigated and uncovered some disturbing history.

Taylor Energy bought an oil field of 28 wells from British Petroleum. They were built in 1984. Hurricane Ivan, in 2004, toppled the platform and it ended up almost on its side, buried under mud and sediment. The Coast Guard began monitoring it, but did not publicize it. In 2008 Taylor Energy was ordered to decommission the wells and some were successfully plugged, but 9 continue to leak. Taylor has said it is not possible to stop those remaining leaks and, in any case, the amount of leakage was minimal and there was no active spill.

In 2015 AP's investigation discovered that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency responsible to oversee such leaks, was 3

years behind in the process. By that time, Taylor Energy had only one employee and his job was to deal with the leak. He said the hurricane was an "act of God," so the company was released from any obligations to clean it up. He also said the amount of oil leakage was decreasing, even as the sheen grew larger and showed an increase in 2014. He plans to "not take any affirmative action" to stop the leaking.

As of 2018 no economic impact analysis has been done and some estimates suggest that the wells could continue leaking for another 100 years before they are depleted. The amount that is leaking is hard to verify, but estimates run from 300-700 barrels per day. Taylor has sold its assets to a Korean conglomerate.

It is unclear why the story has not been reported more widely, or why the responsible government agencies have not met their obligations. As far as I could determine, no legal actions are currently underway.

Information was gathered from Wikipedia, the *Times-Picayune*, the *Washington Post*, the Mother Nature Network, the AP, and a PhD thesis by Sarah Josephine Harrison at the University of Georgia.

*Karen Ostenso  
The Curious Reporter*

### 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)

This forum will cover the serious problems of increased GHG emissions, contamination of rivers, lakes and aquifers, and health problems due to factory farms and the sources and quality of water in the NW suburbs, especially Brooklyn Park. Sonya Eayrs spoke at the Ikes in October 2017.



Think Again **Brooklyn**

Shared Prosperity, a Sustainable Future: Discover What Works!

In the Land of Sky Blue Waters  
**Reaching for Clean Air and Water  
for MN's Cities and Countryside**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

6:00 p.m. - Free Pizza and Salad Buffet and Social

6:30 p.m. - Program

Brooklyn Park City Council Chambers, 5200 85th Avenue N

Please RSVP to [CarolWoehrer@usfamily.net](mailto:CarolWoehrer@usfamily.net)



**Sonya Eayrs** - How is it that the growth of the wind and solar industries have reduced MN's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15%, yet overall emissions have gone down only 5%? Sonya Eayrs will speak on the extensive harm done by Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's), also often referred to as industrial or factory farms. She will suggest how we can best correct the serious GHG, water, and health problems which factory farms are causing.

Sonya is a family lawyer and citizen activist who is active in getting the word out on how industrial farming increases greenhouse gas emissions in our state, pollutes rivers, lakes, and ground water, and harms the health of people who live in the vicinity of the farms. She lives in Maple Grove, and her parents live in Dodge County surrounded by 11 industrial farms within a three mile radius, some as close as a half mile. MN is one of the top three states in the number of CAFO's.



**Jon Watson**, Public Utilities Superintendent for the City of Brooklyn Park, will describe the source and quality of water in Brooklyn Park and nearby suburbs, explain what affects water quality and the treatment process for Brooklyn Park's water, and suggest what we can do to improve and maintain the quality of our water. Jon has worked for the City of Brooklyn Park for over 25 years, 20 of them as the Public Utilities Superintendent and Engineer.

Thank you to our Partners:



Izaak Walton League, Breckenridge Chapter  
*Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife*



*Sunday, May 5, 2019*  
*8 am-1 pm*

Adults \$7.00 Children \$5.00

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

*Plant Sale!*

**Annual**

*Raffle!*

**Pancake Breakfast**



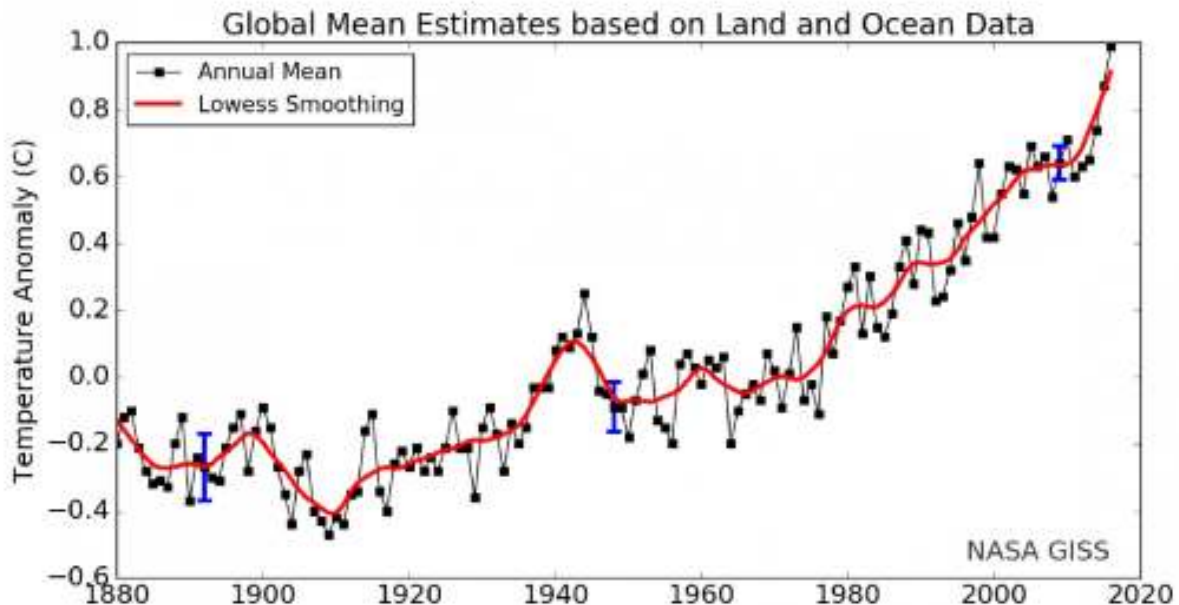
**Breckenridge Chapter House**  
**8816 West River Road Brooklyn Park**



## THOMPSON'S TAKE

Feb. 3, 2019

A high-ranking, Washington dignitary, last week, during the polar vortex, was heard to say, "Well, now what do you think of your global warming?" ... or words to that effect. He didn't even understand what *he* had just said. It's **GLOBAL warming!**, not Washington warming, or even ... Minnesota warming. I did some checking again. That day, when Owatonna had minus 30°, Moscow had plus 31° (*at night!*), Warsaw, Poland had 34° above zero, Berlin had 36° above, and so it goes. Berlin and Warsaw are around 8.5 degrees (latitude) *further north* than Owatonna, even further north than Winnipeg. Moscow is almost 12 degrees further north. Fairbanks, Alaska is *20 degrees* further north than Owatonna. That's only 3 degrees short of the Arctic Circle! At the time that we had 30° below, Fairbanks had 5° *above!* Most of the northern hemisphere north of our latitude was warmer than we were on January 29th. Again, do my numbers prove that global warming is real? Heck no! But, they do show that one cannot assume from local data, Owatonna or Washington D.C. (where it was 41°, by the way), that global warming is not happening. When considering all the numbers on that day, it is clear that more places were warm than cold. When considering all the numbers for the northern hemisphere for a whole year, there is no doubt that the earth is getting warmer.



This NASA graph is a year old. The 2018 data are not yet available (2-3-2019). How much do you want to bet that the line goes up, ... even with the polar vortex?

Well, you should have bet! (grin) Today, 2/7/19, NOAA and NASA announced that 2018 was the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest year. It was beat out by 2016, 2017, and 2015. Look at the graph, again. Ups and downs are normal. What's *not* normal is the trend (Lowess line). The world is warming at a rate *never before seen!*

It was -14° on the farm this morning. As Minnesotans are likely to say ... "a little chilly, doncha tink?"

Well, if you start feeling sorry for yourself ... in Oymyakon, Russia it was -40° (at 1:00 AM)! And there, too ... it's a dry cold!

But, their average temperature at this time of the year is around -47° so ... a little warm for them, too.

Incidentally, the kids go to school in Oymyakon if the temperature is warmer than -55°!

Well, alright then ... NFT

**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.

## **Opinion: Loon Center on Cross Lake**

Upon viewing an article in the *Strib*, March 27<sup>th</sup> about a “National Loon Center” on Cross Lake, I wonder about its benefits to the Loon. Looking at the illustration I would guess there could be 1,000-2,000 ft. of shoreline involved. Shown are approximately 2 dozen boat launching docks, proposed shoreline trail, public boat access, artificial simulation of a Loon nesting site and various buildings, roads and trails. On top of that it appears a large part of the area will be mowed grass, with perhaps fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides applied periodically?



What actual benefit could this be to the Loons of Cross Lake, or any other waterfowl or perching birds adjacent to the shoreline? Besides that there is the cost of around \$10 million dollars?

It would seem in order to benefit the Loon and other wildlife at a much more modest expense would be to create boggy areas along the extensive shoreline and plant species favorable to wildlife such as bulrushes, lily pads, wild rice or other favorable aquatic vegetation and; that includes native shrubs and trees a considerable distance away from the water’s edge.

The main problem of many of our species that seem to be diminishing is lack of habitat and the ever looming and increasing problem of the human presence.

If Minnesota taxpayers want to spend money to improve the Loon situation, we should. But a “Loon Center” should be anywhere except where Loon habitat could and should be!

*Dick Brown*