



# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
May 2019

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

## COMING EVENTS

### MAY 2019

- 5 Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale 8 am-1 pm
- 7 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 14 Visit with Mayor Lunde 7 pm  
Public is invited
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Steven Thomforde: Welcome to the Savanna

### JUNE 2019

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
Paul Fusco: Osprey Update

### JULY 2019

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

Social/Educational meeting

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019 7:30 p.m.**

**Stephen Thomforde**

**Welcome to the Savanna: a Midwest  
and biosphere perspective**

This presentation by Stephen Thomforde, a lifelong student of nature, a naturalist, and ecologist with 25 years experience and 10,000 acres in design and implementation in ecological restoration, will introduce you to the savanna we currently live in

and the savannas from which we emerged as a civilization. He will challenge your perceptions of forest and prairie and discuss how terrestrial earth had and was evolving towards one large savanna. He will introduce the keystone species and disturbances that reinforced savanna. We'll tour through a variety of Midwest savannas, and then around the globe. You will be introduced to why most savanna have long since collapsed into dysfunctional ecosystems that are oftentimes erroneously labeled forest or woodland, terms which in turn perpetuate the catastrophic state. He will introduce you to the evils of excess nitrogen, the loss of keystone species, and why many so called invasive species would be better understood as symptomatic of nitrogen and loss of keystone herbivores. In the end, he'll show you how to restore savannas, from the scale of home-lawns, large regional parks, and entire agricultural systems. Participants will leave with a strong sense that savanna is the most powerful and provisional terrestrial ecosystem ever, and therefore, savanna restoration offers a model for a sustainable-livable planet. And, the presentation pictures are beautiful and flow of information is in perfect harmony.



# Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes April 9, 2019

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

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

Plans for May 5<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast were discussed further. Proposal made to contact Scout Troops to see if one might be interested in trading volunteer assistance for a free rental. Ideas to recruit other volunteers offered. Plans for a concurrent plant sale affirmed but late spring may limit offerings. Raffle items are welcome.

Membership recruitment: A subcommittee will meet to develop a brochure to have available at the Pancake Breakfast. A motion by Joe to allow new members a free weekday, non-holiday rental (based on availability) through the end of this year carried. One idea is to develop a video to present on local TV (the Steele family, current members, has offered expertise in developing one).

Jim suggested we compile a list of the Chapter's accomplishments in the previous year. Steve agreed and thought that would be helpful in submitting annual paperwork to the national IWLA office.

## Issues

Minnesota Division annual convention will be held in April. We are allowed five votes and currently Steve and Larry have committed to go.

Gov. Walz's executive order to restore healthy, diverse pollinator populations was announced. Steve suggested funding for our Oxbow pollinator project might be obtained from this. Dick mentioned a bill being offered in the Legislature to distribute grants to urban property owners who enhance pollinator habitat.

Dick was given the go ahead to ask the Audubon Chapter to join us for our summer meetings. Karen offered some speaker suggestions for future meetings. Karen announced she plans to attend Water Action Day at the Capitol and invited others to join her.

Larry shared a report on a Brooklyn Park community meeting where plans for updating River Park were presented. It was agreed that we need to communicate our concern about saving the wetland wildflower

sections along the river where an elevated walkway is proposed. Joe will be in contact with Jody Yungers at City Hall on this and other matters. Joe spoke with the Brooklyn Park city forester about tree cutting in progress at Coon Rapids Dam and learned they are removing what they consider "junk trees" and ash trees which they predict will be killed soon by green ash borers.

A brief discussion on cattle grazing in wilderness areas was had.

Dick and Tim shared their actions to eliminate funding for a National Loon Center to be located at Cross Lake from the LCCMR list for funding (around \$4 million dollars from the ENTRF). The letter detailing the objections can be found on the Friends of Minnesota SNA's [website](#). Dick's opinion piece was included in last month's Timberlines.

John presented Treasurer's report: Income from Zonolite Trust and Division Energy grant expected soon.

Scholarship committee leaning to increase our scholarship amount to \$600. Decisions on applicants for 2019-2020 will be made later this month.

## Building and Grounds:

- Emergency light replacement has been purchased.
- Bathroom – Bathroom remodel plans on hold until after Pancake Breakfast.
- Plans for renewal of protective coating on exterior walls was shared by Joe.
- Furnace – We need a new one this summer. Discussion had on who to contract the work with. Jim suggested an article on the subject for next Timberlines to see if any members have suggestions.
- Ice dam problems – We still need to add some foam insulation in gaps around heat vents.
- Banfill Island maintenance – Our member John Moriarity and a National Park Service representative have agreed to walk the island with members after high waters recede with an eye to advise on managing invasive plants and deer over-browsing.

## Help needed for Breckenridge Bluebird Trail

In the 1990's, three of our Ikes created a 12 house Blue Bird trail in the center of Oxbow



Park, Champlin, by permission of the Park Board. Members were Vern Peterson, (past president) Joe Lehn, and Dick Brown. They were erected in a large circle around open grassland prairie area in pairs about 20 ft. apart. The theory of this arrangement is that Tree Swallows out compete for the houses. They are more aggressive. However, they also do not allow their own species to nest nearby. Having houses in pairs therefore, allows Bluebirds a chance at the “extra” houses.

After Dick attended the houses for many years, Louie Dinzl and then Lorraine Spears monitored them for many more years. The last several years they have been attended by John Fraley. John has developed an injury and will not be able to continue for some time. Therefore, we are looking for someone to volunteer to do the monitoring at least for a while.

Monitoring consists of someone approaching the houses, opening them up carefully, checking how many are being used by Bluebirds, how many by Tree Swallows and EVICTING the main enemies of the Bluebirds, which are the House Sparrow, House Wrens and mice occupants. We have experienced personnel who can go with a first time monitor to explain the system, “on the job training.” Monitoring should be done between 7 to 10 day intervals. Bluebirds will nest 2 and sometimes 3 times a year. We would like to continue this long time environmental tradition of Breckenridge Chapter.

Please call Dick at 763-421-6781, if you are interested.

## Mayor Lunde’s visits Breckenridge Chapter for “State of the City”



Brooklyn Park Mayor Jeff Lunde spoke with community residents about the “State of the City” and took questions on a wide range of issues. Dressed in his usual causal manner, untied tennis shoes, no tie, he listened to audience questions and suggestions, allowing the subject matter to follow the group’s interests.

Mayor Lunde explained that in the past his “State of the City” address was given to the Chamber of Commerce with usually “low attendance by the same twenty people.” This year he decided to go to the citizens and meet with them where he was invited. He said he has given a dozen talks in the last two days and is scheduled for as many more before the week is out. In 2016, Lunde ran for higher office as a Republican in Senate District 36 but was defeated in a close race by incumbent DFL Sen. Hoffman. In 2018, Lunde was reelected as mayor of Brooklyn Park, a Democratic leaning constituency, with 52% of the vote.

He began with an explanation of the “age friendly” key city initiative where the city is partnering with organizations which care for people with dementia. He also explained the passage of the recent Park Bond and how the initial work would begin by completely revamping three older parks in “dire need of a redo.”

Not included under the Park Bond is the Mississippi Gateway Project where the City's environmental area across from the Coon Rapids Dam will be combined in a joint venture with Three Rivers Parks to be developed over a two to four year time period. A goal of the park is to get people into nature without destroying nature. A pedestrian/bicycle tunnel is planned to connect the two under West River Road.

Other money from the Park Bond, about 3.5 million dollars, will be going to build an inflatable sports dome north of Park Center High School. When the school isn't using it, the city will have use of the facility. It will include a walking track and should be open this winter.

In an interesting aside, Lunde expressed his pride that the Champlin Park High School has now been hooked up to the Brooklyn Park water supply and thus its mailing address will officially now be listed as Brooklyn Park where it actually is located, not Champlin where its water supply formerly came from.

Another question asked of the Mayor was the City's role in suggesting best practices to stabilize the river bluffs against years of continuous high waters. Our Breckenridge Chapter House is being affected as well, as more slumpage of our riverbank carries parts of it and our river walk downstream to add to the sediment filling in Lake Pepin. The mayor promised to bring this up with city staff.

Lunde answered a question about the Light Rail project by saying the main stumbling block right now is the lack of cooperation from the Burlington Northern railroad company. He thinks it will take the action of our Congress members in Washington to squeeze concessions out of them. It is of note that Lunde has not agreed with State Republican positions against Light Rail development as a waste of money.

Other topics brought up included the manning of the East District Fire Station and progress on the conversion of Hwy 252 to a freeway. Lunde explained the work in progress to decrease response times across the city and that the East District station will likely be staffed, at least with a partial crew. He said he expects the actual work on Hwy 252 to begin in 2023 and take a couple of years. There will be interchanges at Brookdale Drive and 85<sup>th</sup> Ave N. He expects there will be decreased neighborhood traffic when rush hour traffic is no longer jammed up at traffic lights.

A question on the city's move toward conversion of its energy source to renewable electric was answered noting work already completed on solar gardens behind City Hall and on roofs that will support it. He explained this is a win-win for the environment and the city budget. He said he would check on options for the City providing charging stations for electric vehicles. Also in discussion is future conversion of the City's fleet of vehicles to electric. Currently they use older police cars.

Still another topic the Mayor discussed was the possible change in ordinances allowing citizens to keep domestic farm animals such as chickens, pigs and goats. He encouraged the audience to take the on-line survey. He guessed the issue might come up for a vote late this year.

The final topic asked from the audience was concerning the City's water supply and the hardness problems. The Mayor explained our options were to get our water from Minneapolis, which would triple our water bills or install a water softening plant at the cost of \$16 million dollars, a choice that citizens have already rejected. So for now we all need to accept that our home water softeners will need regular replacement.

*Reported by Tim Johnson*

Pancake Breakfast is a big success!

After expenses we cleared \$1525 including \$207 from the plant sale plus \$160 for the scholarship fund and \$242 for membership. From setup....

Thanks to Karen Ostenso and Steve Schaust for the photos!



to cleanup!



## Our river walk needs some work

“Old Man River” has been more than just rolling along this spring. He’s been running way above normal and constantly eating away at our bluff. The landing on the south stairs is only being held up by the big root ball of the basswood that we cut down in 2017.

The connecting path from the south to the north stairs has collapsed even further. What we thought was still a safe path to the river bank on the north stairs is now missing a step. Don’t go down there in the dark unless you want to break a leg.

We’ll need a team to fix the missing step immediately as it is a definite safety hazard and a liability to our Chapter if someone gets hurt. We’ll have to decide how soon to completely shut down the south stairs that ends at the undermined viewing platform.



## Trio of eagles raises a family



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Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River refuge have been following an eagle nest in Illinois by camera. National Audubon Society has told its story.

It started in 2012 with a female named Hope and a male named Valor. They hatched several eggs, but Valor was not a very helpful partner. He did very little to incubate the eggs or bring food to the hatchlings. Along came Valor II who was a much more helpful partner and parent. Valor I stayed even after Valor II became involved. Hope ended up disappearing after some other eagles attacked. Nevertheless, the dads stayed together and successfully raised 2 eaglets.

This year a new female, Starr, joined the nest and all 3 adults are participating in child-raising activities. It is not known which male is the biological father. Because eagles mate for life, the 3 are expected to remain together.

This information is from the *Washington Post*, but the story has been picked up by many news outlets and the live cam is on YouTube.

*Karen Ostenso*

## Congratulations to League Award Winners!

Two local Leaders were recognized at Convention with awards for outstanding service to League:

Congratulations to Geri Nelson from LWV ABC for winning the [Hope Washburn Award](#), which was

established in 1956 for a special member who has performed outstanding service to both her local League and to LWV Minnesota. Geri was unanimously selected for her long-term and inspiring leadership and philanthropic generosity to LWV and her community, and her commitment to developing new and young leaders which ensures sustainability of LWV's efforts to educate and empower voters and defend democracy.

Congratulations to **Paula Stein Clark** from LWV Dakota County for taking home the [Peggy Thompson Award](#), which focuses special recognition on someone who, by their sustained efforts, has been instrumental in strengthening and/or stabilizing their local LWV, and affecting their community through their enthusiasm, motivation of others and innovative ideas. Paula was nominated by her entire leadership team, who noted her strong communication skills – always presenting League values and principals in the most professional way – to the public, media or candidates.

*Left to right: Geri Nelson (ABC) and Paula Stein Clark (Dakota County), our 2019 award winners.*



**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
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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 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.

### **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)

**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)  
May 28 - Judy Arnold  
June 25 -  
July 23 -  
August 27 -**