



# Timberlines

## W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League May/June 2011 [www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

### Coming Events

#### June

- 12 MN Division Executive Committee
- 14 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

#### SECOND ANNUAL BRECKENRIDGE CHAPTER ART SHOW

- 22 Art Drop off Wed 5-8 p.m.
- 23 Set up 10-6 p.m.
- 24 Opening Friday 6-10 p.m.
- 25 Saturday 11-8 p.m.
- 26 Sunday 11-5 p.m.
- 28 Tuesday 6-10 p.m.
- 28 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30  
program Don Luce, Bell Museum  
Curator of Exhibits "Avian Art  
History"

July 11-15, 2011, National IWLA  
Convention, Des Moines, IA  
Fall Social/Educational meeting: Darby  
Nelson's upcoming book Love of Lakes

#### July

- 12 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30



May 24th Social/Educational meeting speaker John Moriarty plus member Barbara Franklin. Thanks John for a great program.

On Tuesday, **June 28**, as a part of the Second Annual Nature and Wildlife Art Show at the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, Don Luce, Bell Museum Curator of Exhibits, will speak on "Avian Art History." Don will discuss the Bell Museum's art collection and exhibitions, and then trace the evolution of bird art through time with emphasis on European and American traditions and artists. In particular he will examine the intersection between art and science in the discovery, exploration and conservation of biological diversity. This will be art history from the perspective of a naturalist and will cover various artists and art trends as they relate to developments in science and conservation, up to more contemporary artists who may have a very different take on birds.

## **Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League of America 5-10-11 Meeting Notes**

**Attending:** Steve Shaust, Barb Franklin, Marlys Carls-Steiskal, Jim Arnold, Bill Barton, Wes Hendrickson, Roger Williams, John Rust, Dick Brown, Bruce Hanson, Mark Gustafson

### **CALENDAR: (Breckenridge event dates in all CAPITAL LETTERS)**

Nate Truit - National Development Director to visit Thursday at 7:30 pm at Chapter House.

**MAY 24<sup>th</sup>** – Social Educational Meeting - John Moriarity Co Editor of Breckenridge book on Breck

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Joint meeting finance & buildings and grounds project priorities meeting.

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Art show planning meeting Wednesday 7 pm at Chapter house.

**June 12, 2011**, MN Division Executive Committee

**JUNE Art Show** – Art Drop off Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 4\*-8 pm, Set up Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> 10-6 pm, Opening Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 6-10 pm, Sat 25<sup>th</sup> 11-8 pm, Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 11-5 pm, Tues 28<sup>th</sup> open 6pm, 7:30 program Close 10pm Schedule will be in Brooklyn Park Get Up & Go community calendar. \$10 per piece entry fee. \$20 for a booth outside /supply your own shelter if needed – John will work out sizing / site layout.

**JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>** Social Educational Don Luce from Bell Museum? Barb

**July 11-15, 2011**, National IWLA Convention, Des Moines, IA

Future Social educational meetings ideas and instigators:

Don Shelby – Dick Brown?

Will Steger- John Rust?

Audubon – Jerry Bahls idea? Dick Brown-

Dave Gardner – Addicted to Growth Film

WPG – Barb will ask

Matt Norton – Backwoods Hunters & Anglers? – Bill Barton

Tom Landwher – Steve Schaust

Former DNR Commissioner Agricultural Tiling talk? Bill Barton

Darby Nelson's upcoming book "Love of Lakes" probably February next year? –

Dick Brown is keeping the Steve Shaust

Steve will call a finance committee meeting this month.

**General Discussion** - Scholarship endowment papers signed thanks to Jim Arnold.

Boy Scout Trailer title transfer from Lions to Breckenridge Chapter – Bruce is working on it.

Seven Ikes at Betty Stein's funeral yesterday.

**Timberlines** - Marlys used points to print the last Timberlines – kudos to Marlys!

**Treasurers Report** – Good income from pancake breakfast. To date up ~\$2,000 for year.

**ISSUES – short discussion on:**

**Changes to the Green Acres Program and Options for Enrollees** – changes made by 2009 Legislature.

**Siting of Stadium at Arden Hills** – no issues identified.

**CHAPTER HOUSE AND GROUNDS** Wish list: Wiring out to new shed. Install new battery for solar sign light. Front garden planting – Barb will contact MaryJo? Stone on posts could be done after garden? Install new toilets. New coffee pot. Door on kitchen counter to close off during meetings. Kitchen remodel – a combination of finance and buildings and grounds committee will consider projects and come up with a priority list.

**Pancake Breakfast** – Thinking of raising price next year. John Rust moved \$7 adults, \$5 children. Bill Barton Seconded. Failed 5 to 4 with Steve's Tie breaker – bring it up next year.

**Rentals** – Jim has done an excellent job while Wes has been recuperating.

**Scholarship Committee** – Papers signed again for changes in endowment advisors of Tom Breckenridge moving to affiliation with Charles Schwab. Next year four returning students, lots of other good students with two tied at the top with great references. Charley & Marlys Taflin have offered to donate \$500 for a sixth scholarship next year. There may be a need to either cut back or dip into endowment to maintain 5 scholarships in the future.

**MOTION** - Wes Hendrickson motioned to support 6 scholarships this year with the restriction that if the income does not cover 5 in future years we will consider the options at that time. Dick Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.

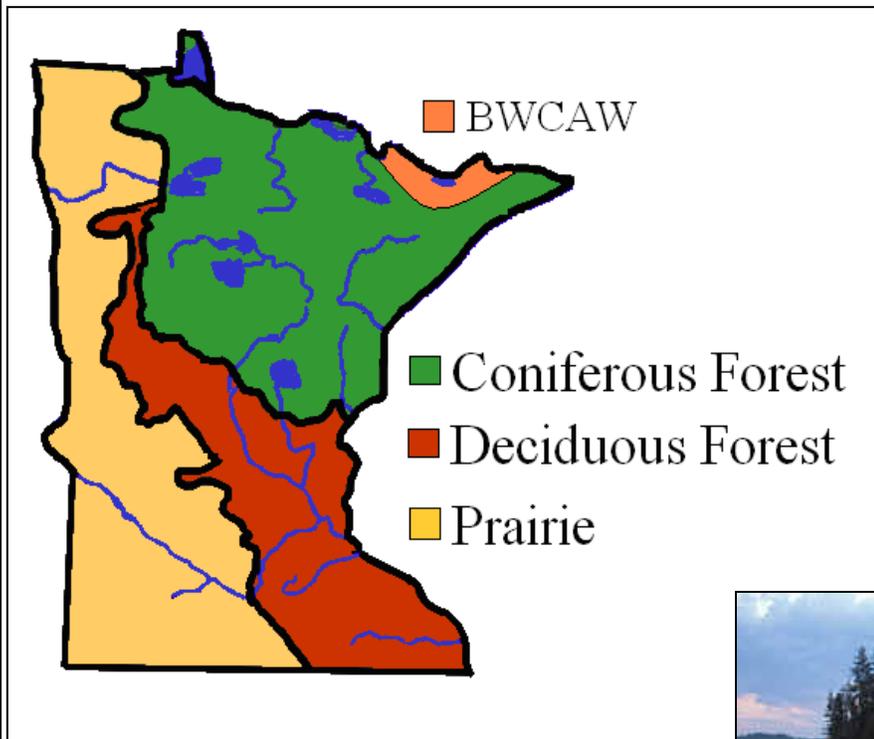
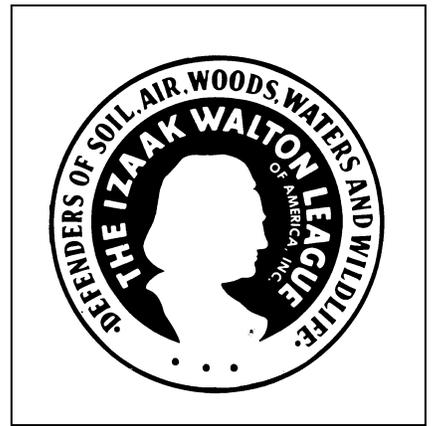
**Website** [www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

**Membership** – We keep picking up a few members.

Bill Barton 5-10

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is the most popular and most visited wilderness in the US. It contains hundreds of pristine bedrock lakes surrounded by mature red and white pines in northeastern Minnesota. At 1.1 million acres in size, the Boundary Waters is the largest wilderness east of the Rockies and north of the Everglades.

Protecting the BWCAW has been a priority for the Izaak Walton League since the 1920s. In fact, the IWL is the only conservation organization that has fought every battle since the 1920s to protect this beautiful and popular area.



## 2011-12 Scholarship Recipients

By Jim Arnold

The Breckenridge Chapter Scholarship Committee recently named six outstanding young people as our scholarship recipients for the 2011-12 school year. The Chapter has now awarded 54 five hundred dollar scholarships in the thirteen years of the program. The committee selected six students because of the exceptional quality of the applicants and because Charlie and Marlys Taflin generously donated \$500 to make an extra scholarship possible. The six students are:

**Ruth Burke** is an Osseo High School graduate currently completing her junior year at the University of Minnesota. Her major is Applied Plant Science (agroecology emphasis) with a minor in Sustainable Agriculture. After graduation next spring Ruth plans to spend a year gaining experience in an agronomy lab before applying for graduate school where her focus will be applied agriculture. Ruth is looking forward to two research projects this summer: One focuses on the use of different cover crops in dairy cattle rotational grazing, the other on the response of purple loosestrife to beetle herbivory. She feels these research projects will provide invaluable laboratory and field experience necessary for graduate school and for the Peace Corps Masters International Program for which she also plans to apply. In her scholarship application Ruth wrote that, "I feel strongly about using my research experiences to educate the public on sustainable and environmentally sound land usage practices."

**Shaina Sabel** is an Anoka High School graduate who recently completed her third

year at South Dakota State University. Her majors are Agronomy and Environmental Management. After graduation Shaina plans to attend graduate school in the plant science area with a focus on food production. It is possible she will attempt to obtain two graduate degrees; one in nitrate runoff reduction from agricultural fields and another in soil fertility/plant nutrition.

Shaina continues to work for the Water Resources Institute, Plant Science Department, where she conducts field work on a manure runoff project. This summer Shaina will be involved with a crop scouting internship with Country Pride Coop in Winner, South Dakota. With Country Pride she will learn about large scale production as well as gain experience with a multitude of crop varieties.

**William Risse**, a graduate of Park Center High School, is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. His major is Land Use Planning with a minor in Soil Science, Geographical Information System and Spatial Analysis. He has begun focusing on his future graduate school experience. William would like to emphasize conservation and preservation of natural resources, and working with municipalities or private organizations to maximize natural land preservation using various planning methods. This summer he has accepted an internship with Land Management and Land Conservation Offices in Pepin County, Wisconsin. Among his many activities at Stevens Point, William is a member of Students for Sustainable Communities. When he has time, he enjoys a variety of outdoor activities: hunting, fishing, hiking and camping.

**Ellen Squires**, a graduate of Andover High School, recently completed her freshman year

at St. Olaf college. She plans to double major in biology and environmental studies with a concentration in statistics. Her long range plans include attending graduate school to obtain a degree in environmental law, biostatistics, biological research or another ecology-related career. Ellen has been very impressed by the emphasis St. Olaf places on environmental sustainability. This summer she plans to implement some of these sustainable techniques to a community garden she has adopted in Andover. She also plans to help out with STO-GROW, the student-run organic farm on campus. In addition to her environmental activism, Ellen finds time to play in the Philharmonia Orchestra, mentor two underrepresented high school students and visit with residents at the local nursing home.

**Kristen Peterson**, a recent graduate of Maple Grove High School, plans to start her college career at the University of Minnesota where she will study environmental science. In her scholarship application Kristen did a wonderful job of addressing the many environmental problems we face and linking these issues to one overriding problem -- overpopulation. She enjoys spending as much as she can outdoors. She has volunteered with Three Rivers Park Districts program to monitor Blanding turtles, Spiny Softshell turtles and dragonflies. Kristen also started a compost bin at her families home and has taken part in river clean up projects. Perhaps her most impressive volunteer work was starting a neighborhood recycling project. A few years ago she became aware that Allied waste was not recycling certain plastics and Styrofoam. She developed a plan to collect these items in her neighborhood and personally delivers them to Diversifoam and the Eastside Co-op.

**Karin Sather**, who recently graduated from Champlin Park High School, will begin her freshman year at St. Olaf College in the fall and plans to major in Biology. Her long term goals involve becoming an orthopedic surgeon in a Spanish speaking country or researching the effects of changes in the environment on human health. Karin has a significant head start on a research career. For three years she has been a volunteer researcher at the University of Minnesota for the Household Ecosystem Project (TCHEP). With TCHEP she has conducted independent research projects exploring various water related problems. Her most recent research involved the potential for leaves falling on impermeable surfaces as a source of nutrient loading to urban bodies of water. Later this month she will present this research at a high school environmental conference in New York. Karin states, "My love of environmental research can be attributed to my love of the outdoors." She enjoys camping, fishing, canoeing climbing, bike riding and exploring. Her summer job involves working on a farm growing strawberries, blueberries and sweet corn.

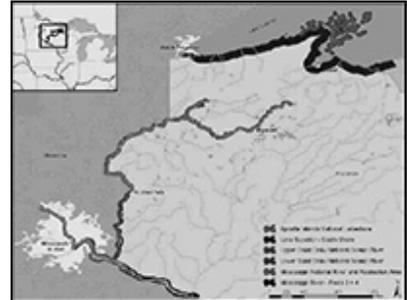
All of these scholarship recipients have expressed their appreciation for the support they receive from the Breckenridge Chapter. These are students who excel academically and have a tremendous commitment to environmental causes. At least three of the recipients will be in town on June 28<sup>th</sup> and will attend our meeting that evening. If you have questions about the Breckenridge Chapter scholarship program please contact one of the members: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin.

## Eagles Study, Breck Island Year 3 Dell Erickson

It was a beautiful sunny warm Wednesday May 18th when Jim Arnold, Dennis Leslie, John Fraley, and I met with the National Park Service's eagle study group at Banfil Island (known by we Ikes as 'Breck Island'). We met National Park Service (NPS) ecologist Bill Route, team leader, and Jim Spickler an assistant, the tree climber, and crossbow artist.



The 'Team'



Survey Region

Bald Eagle spring nesting and health has been monitored since the early 1980s in Wisconsin and somewhat later in Minnesota. The MDNR stopped the surveys in 1995. Then in 2006 NPS Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network began to monitor birds for contaminants. In 2006 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency began to fund the project. Today's study was assisted by Minnesota Audubon.

Over this part of the Mississippi study area there were six more nests counted this year than previously, now 41. On Breck Island the NPS uses the "soft technique" where they use a crossbow to shoot a small line over a branch near the nest ("aerie" –the nest of a bird of prey) then larger climbing ropes are pulled over the area using the smaller line.

The "hard technique" uses typical tree climbing spurs dug into the trunk by the climber. The soft approach does little if any damage to the tree but in addition to understanding eaglets, requires climbing skills similar to those of a rock climber.



Eagle study "tacklebox"



Straight shooter!



We're here!

The birds are placed into individual cloth carrying sacks attached to a belt; on the ground the birds are removed and placed on the ground where they simply sit. See photos.

At the age of approximately seven weeks the eaglets are fairly large, weight 5-8 pounds, but are weak, cannot fly nor do they become agitated. In other words, the climber does not (generally) have to wrestle the young to put them into the carrying sack. I guess it's because they are weak and realize it. They pretty much stay in the middle of the nest until older and stronger –and more curious about their surroundings



Examining



Banding & Talon vs. Hand

These two youngsters appeared healthy, one larger than the other. Numbers have been increasing throughout the region tested.

Two offspring seems to be typical of a healthy pair of eagles in the study area other than in the Apostle Islands where one is common. In this case, the larger one was surprisingly feisty, The examiners had their hands full to keep the bird still for the exam! Even with these young immature birds, the beaks and talons looked big, almost the size of an adult's. I kept thinking getting a finger in a beak or the talons squeezing an arm could remind the person these are wild animals.

They check the general health and appearance, band the bird, and then measure the weight, foot and toe size, and size of beak. I didn't see them measure it, but my guess is that the larger eaglet's wingspan was close to 5'. Finally, they take a vial of blood and some feathers. Making the overhead flying and squawking mom and dad really happy, they are immediately returned to the nest.



Bald Eagles are studied because they high level raptors consuming a variety of lower level species. Persistent products, i.e., mercury, DDT, are accumulated in the species eaten by eagles (and other raptors). By testing them, not only can a good indication of eagle and other raptor health be determined, but health of the overall system. If there is



a specific area found with especially high levels, a search for the source can also be performed.

Blood is used to test for chemicals and feathers for heavy metals (lead and mercury). They determine concentrations of DDT, DDE, DDD, PCBs, PBDEs, and PFCs. DDT (DDE) is still found but is slowly improving, as is PCBs. Likewise for mercury and lead but more irregularly since it can still be introduced and is in the system. See the pdf file cited for more information.

The four of us want to thank the staff of the National Park Service for their courtesy and allowing us to be a part of this work group –and especially me to photograph it!

**Further information:**

Contaminants in Bald Eagle Nestlings at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway”, Data Summary: 2006—2008, Natural Resource Data Series NPS/GLKN/NRDS —2009/001, Bill Route and Rebecca Key, National Park Service, Ashland, WI 54806. Great Lakes Inventory PDF of study see < <http://www.nps.gov/miss/naturescience/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=181418> >. Nest survey < <http://www.nps.gov/miss/parknews/news-eaglesurvey.htm> >.

# Camden Heron Rookery RIP Dell Erickson

We all are focused on our environment, call it “Mother Nature”, Gaia, or something else, it fortifies our souls, raises our spirits, and provides the sustenance to life in all its forms. We strive to achieve it and to preserve and protect it for ourselves, the future and for its own sake.

Intellectually, we understand the circle of life is sometimes harsh and accept it. But somehow when its might hits near home, we can be troubled by its temperament. So it is when the May 22<sup>nd</sup> straight line winds and tornadoes swept through north Minneapolis and up the Mississippi river and into the Camden Bridge areas, wrecking havoc along the way.



In its direct path was the big Great Blue Heron Rookery on the island two blocks north of the Camden Bridge (near the North Mississippi Regional Park). The rookery was a favorite for nature lovers and photographers because it was one of the premier rookeries for convenience and for observing Blue Heron behavior.

I have photographed there a number of times –as have some other Breck Chapter Ike’s.



In an earlier photo, I counted 67 nests of which 3-4 were apparently not used this year, near the tops of the trees, about 60’ up. Generally, each nest will have two adults and maybe a third adult nearby with 2-3 fledglings in each nest.

Alas, the full might of Mother Nature slammed into the area and into the rookery. When it was over, only a handful of mostly shredded trees were all that remained.

The National Park Service and volunteers soon arrived to see if they could help the birds. Of the more than 100 fledglings, they found 9 and brought them over to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to be cared for. The birds will be either released into the wild. One fully feathered chick was seen flying a week later.



A similar outcome was evident with the adults. The day following 40 were counted, the next day 37, the next 35. Because the adults likely began to leave the nest just prior to the full brunt of the winds, it is hoped some of them moved on. But I am not confident they moved on in the usual sense of the word. (Photos at left are before the tornado struck.)



It is good the numbers began to drop because it implies the birds are dispersing to summer feeding locations. When I was there on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, I counted only 7-8 birds. Compelled by unseen forces, one pair was attempting to reconstruct a nest. Today, a week later, only an occasional bird can be seen.



The rookery and most of its birds and an entire generation of offspring for this group have experienced the other side of nature's balance.



It is very unlikely this island will be used in the near future by a large group. Next Spring the survivors will be looking for another rookery site.

If there is silver lining it is that Breck Island is not too far north of the former



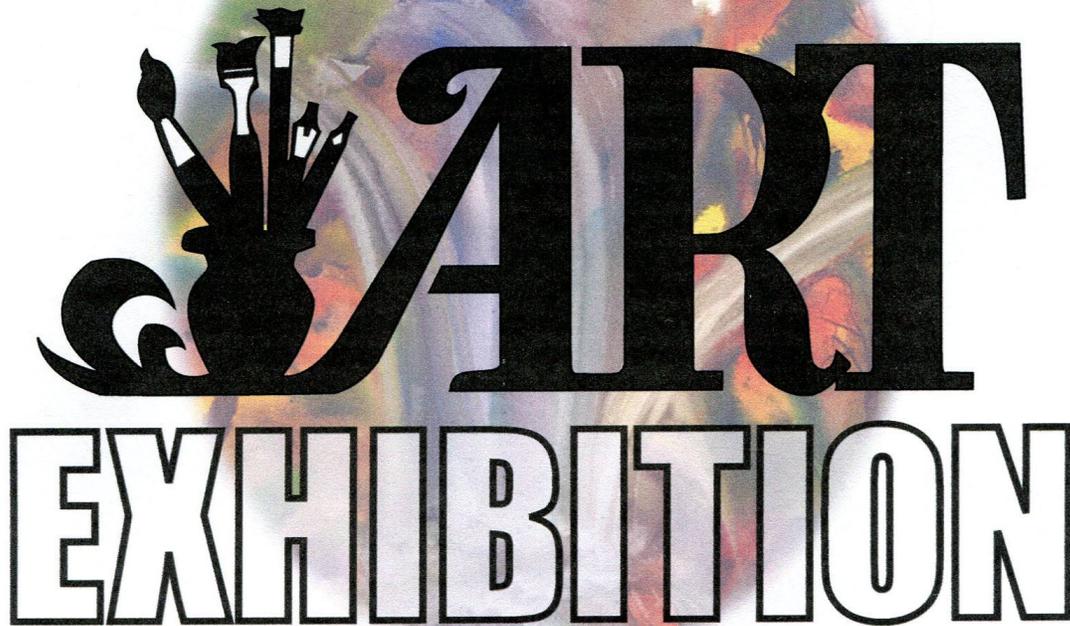
Camden rookery and could possibly become the new site.

One thing we know for certain, nature doesn't forget, it cycles; the island will come back.

**Photography by Dell Erickson**

# BRECKENRIDGE

CHAPTER IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA



# ART EXHIBITION

**Friday, June 24: 6-10 pm – Nature and Wildlife Art  
Show Opens**

**Saturday, June 25: 11 am-8 pm & Sunday, June 26: 11  
am-5 pm**

**Nature Arts/Crafts for sale & Children's Activities**

**Tuesday, June 28: 6-10 pm – Art Exhibition  
7:30 pm – Don Luce, Bell Museum – “Avian Art  
History”**

Don Luce, Bell Museum Curator of Exhibits, will present art history from the perspective of a naturalist, covering various artists and art trends as they relate to developments in science and conservation, up to more contemporary artists who may have a very different take on birds. Join us for the second Breckenridge Chapter Nature and Wildlife Art show and presentation.

The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

*For further information please contact John at [imgahn2u@yahoo.com](mailto:imgahn2u@yahoo.com) or 763-202-3346.  
watercolor: Barbara Boulka*

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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.”



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

