



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
December 2018

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2018

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 25 Christmas Day – no meeting

JANUARY 2019

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 20 Winter Party – Melonie Shipman

FEBRUARY 2019

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 pm
Jay Gustafson - Minnesota State Water Trails

Holiday Party speaker: It's a Sled Dog's Life Sunday, January 20

We welcome Melonie Shipman, traveling naturalist and former co-Executive Director, Audubon Center of the North Woods as speaker for our annual Holiday Party.

An Educator/Manager with broad range and depth of experience in a wide variety of audiences, formats and settings, she is dedicated to expanding the reach of nature-based programs to audiences at their locations.



Here's how she describes her program "It's a Sled Dog's Life":

The world's greatest athletes don't wear gold medals – they would get stuck in their harnesses- they have four- legs and pull sleds across thousands of miles of snow and ice! Sled dogs have been providing work, companionship and entertainment for hundreds of years. You'll have an insider's perspective on what it means for these master athletes and their mushers to race for the finish dodging blizzards, moose, and exhaustion along the way.

My life stopovers have been many and varied; From Indiana (birth) to New Mexico (upbringing) to Texas (Russian language major) to Virginia (high school Science teacher) to Nebraska (Marketing Coordinator) to Alaska (National Wildlife Refuge Educator) to Minnesota (Co-Executive Director of a Residential Environmental Learning Center) and now to an early retirement beside the lake.

The journey has been filled with amazing experiences; photographing thousands of miles from a bush plane in Alaska, teaching beside Native elders, touching gray whales, dog sledding and sea kayaking expeditions. This mix of education and experience forms the base of my "Traveling Naturalist" programs and my writing. When asked how I came to have such amazing experiences I replied that, "I have tried to say 'yes' to new opportunities whenever they arose."

In choosing to be self-employed, I am highly tuned to new opportunities to share time with my family of friends, to learn, to travel, to story build and to help dilute the impact of canine cancers. To that end, any profits from my pawings will add to my contributions to the National Canine Cancer Foundation and Red Rover in their amazing work.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes November 11, 2018

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Tim, John, Karen, Wes, Barb, Larry, Dick, Dennis, Joe and guest Mary Ellen Vetter.

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

Steve shared the story of his chance encounter with Gov. Walz and Rep. Collin Peterson at a hunting lodge a week before the recent election. He said after spending several hours chatting and hunting with the two he came away impressed with the Governor-elect's backing of many Ike conservation concerns whereas the Representative seemed less enthusiastic.

Dick familiarized the Board members with an issue about Champlin's Oxbow Park's north arm. Developers are requesting extension of a city street to open up opportunity for construction of new homes but the extension could involve a loss of some of the park's land. Champlin Garden Club has voted to contribute funds to plant the north arm of the park with pollinator friendly species if the street project is halted. Dick suggested our Board consider chipping in with a donation offer as well.

Larry has scheduled a meeting with Gov-elect Walz's transition team to suggest qualities we would like to see in the next DNR Commissioner.

Membership

Mary Ellen (membership chair), joined the Board to discuss ways to increase membership. Several ideas, including those shared by the Division Board after the October Strategic Planning meeting, were discussed. Joe and Karen volunteered to serve on a subcommittee with Mary Ellen to come up with some suggestions to bring to the Board in order to grow our membership.

Building and Grounds:

Tim reported that :

- Paper work for grant and reimbursement on our energy saving projects this year are complete.
- We have had more problems with the circuit breaking on the refrigerator and melting ice on to the kitchen floor. Joe will provide contact information with Hipsag Electric who installed the current wiring.
- Rain diverters have been installed above both entrances.
- Burial of the power supply to our entrance sign is complete.
- A new stand for our AV equipment (large flat screen TV) was ordered.
- New tarps for outdoor wood stacks were purchased using Menard's rebate fund.
- LED light bulbs were swapped into the fixtures in the old section of the Chapter House

Tim gave the Rental report: December weekend dates have all been rented.

John gave the Treasurer's report including details of some recent donations to the college scholarship fund. Finances are solid in preparation for more building and maintenance projects next spring.

Restoration of the Chapter House Grounds

By Tim Johnson

Our sore backs, after a day of pulling buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, amur maple and other exotic invasives, have been the price we've paid so far in our attempt to restore our Breckenridge Chapter House grounds to the way it should be.

But wait, what is the way it "should be"? Do we mean the way it was before Europeans colonized Minnesota. If that is our goal, then we need to be sure what biome was here in the early 1800's.



Looking around the Chapter House one would guess it was always a forest. The "Big Woods" biome might fit. We don't have any native maples (there are three small sugar maples we planted a few years back) but we do see plenty of basswood, oak (reds and whites), green ash, cottonwood, hackberry, a few black cherry and lots of ironwood along the river bluff. I think there is a bitternut hickory there too. American elms still make a valiant effort to continue their line but the beetles always kill them within a few years.

We have aerial photographs of how things looked in 1937, just a year after the Izaak Walton League built the first part of the Chapter House. Before that, the property was owned for many years

by the Mississippi & Rum River Boom Co. and we can be sure they would have left no marketable sized trees standing on the property. Practically everything else in Brooklyn Park, as you can see, had been clear cut for farming.

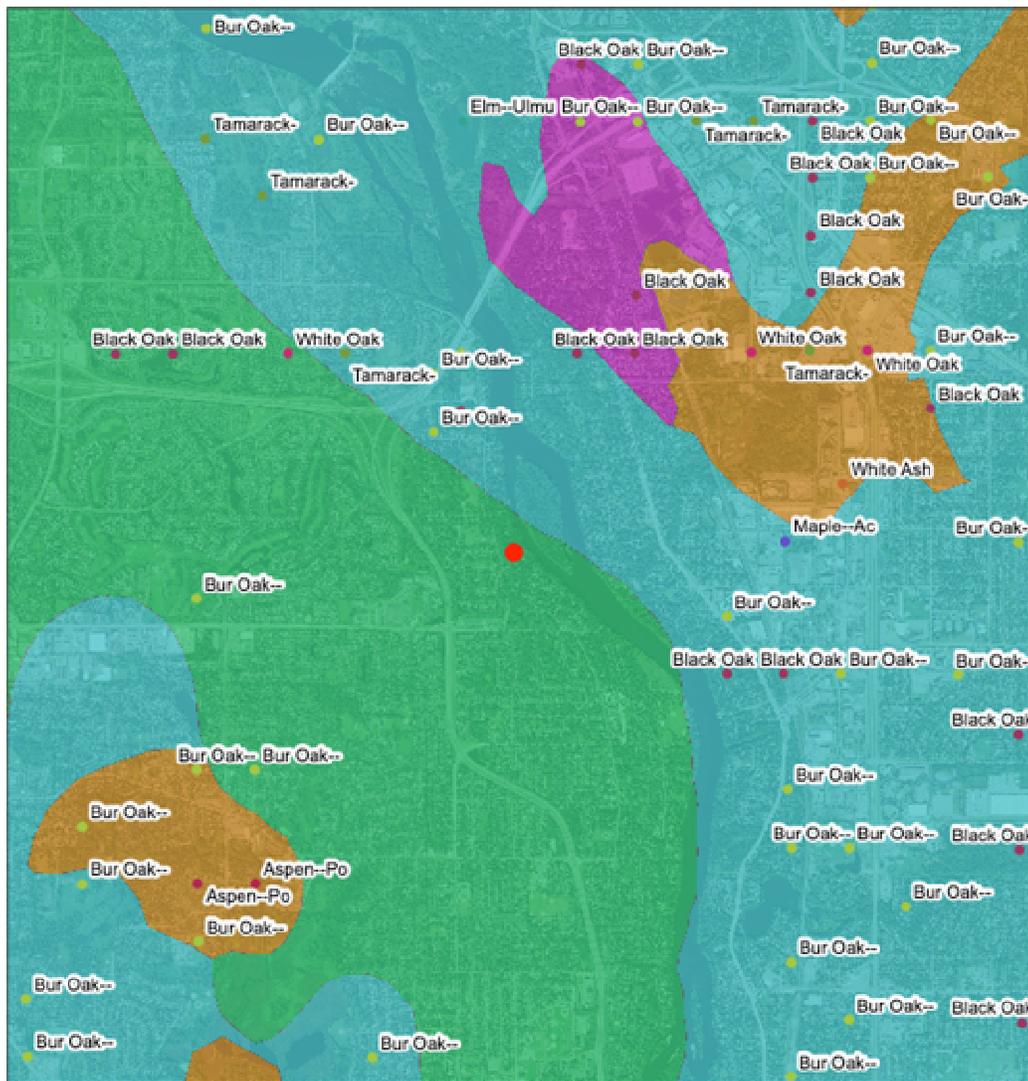
The property was wooded in 1937 but as the photos at ground level taken around the time of construction show, the trees were not dense or mature. They were definitely not part of what one would call a mature forest and were probably second growth after logging.



So how can we tell what the pre-European biome might have been? The DNR classifies the geomorphology here as "terrace" and the soil as "sand and gravel". That sounds favorable for either big woods or prairie.

Early records include surveys. Notes that the original surveyors wrote as they trudged across Minnesota 150 years ago are priceless. After measuring the sections, the surveyors would place a marker and describe the biome. If there were trees, they

would notch a nearby large one or two, noting the species and distance from the marker on their maps. Here are the “bearing trees” they entered for our neighborhood. Notice that there are none close by, indicating it must have been grassland.



Marschner's Map with Original Bearing Trees



Between 1929 and 1931, Francis Marschner, from a desk in Washington, went through the surveyors' notes, word by word, and constructed a map of pre-settlement vegetation for the whole state of Minnesota. And here is what Marschner extrapolated from those maps. He paints a picture of what the land looked like on the fringes of European settlement.

Based on this information, the site was likely prairie, but pretty close to forested areas. The number of bur and white oaks currently on our property suggests the area may have been oak savannah, maintained by frequent natural or intentionally set fires by the native Dakota and Ojibwa.

So perhaps we are getting it right in reintroducing some prairie wildflowers along the boulevard. Continuing in that vein, we plan to add some short prairie grasses and sedges next spring. These should add some authentic beauty while still allowing us to maintain safe conditions

pulling out onto West River Road. As for the forested remainder, fire no longer being available as a management tool means instead of oak savannah the forest will evolve more toward the “big woods” again even while deer over-browsing and invasive pests and plants limit some species. Our basswood trees are now competing in the canopy with some of our big old oaks.

Meanwhile, out on Banfill Island, invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard are threatening the native plants. More on that in a future article.

Please keep in your prayers...



Jim Arnold, one of our most active members and one whom we miss terribly, has been in the hospital and rehab since early November and suffering from terrible pain. He's back home now, but Judy is now in charge of his care.

She says: "We feel your love BUT would like that no one come for a visit at least this week or more. Also PLEASE do not call this week as we are adjusting-only immediate family. AND NO ONE (even family) call after 8:00 p. m. as that is Grandpa's new bedtime hour....Jim needs recuperating time and my role has grown to several more hours. BUT I am so glad to have him home with me! We belong together.

Overall, Jim is doing so much better but also has several health issues that need care. We remain on that long road, taking one day at a time. Love to you all!!"

We wish them both the best!

For updates on Jim's condition and in place of phone calls, please visit the Caring Bridge site (caringbridge.org)

Happy Holidays!

Jerry & Wendy Steele, Karen Ostenso, Dell and Linda Eriksson, Tim & Lori Johnson, Mary Ellen Vetter, and Barb Franklin made light work of decorating the Chapter House on Friday night.



Roundup--Is it safe?

by Karen Ostenso

Karen suggests this might be a good program if we can find a reputable speaker on this subject.

For many years we have all heard that Roundup is safe to use in all applications, farms, parks, yards, golf courses, etc. As such, it has become the most-used herbicide in the world. Recent events in the news have brought its harmlessness into question.

A groundskeeper in California developed non-Hodgkin lymphoma, blamed it on years of applying Roundup, and won a huge settlement. Subsequently, thousands of cases have been initiated, including against Quaker Oats and Cheerios.

Monsanto developed Roundup and began selling it in 1973. Its primary ingredient is glyphosate, although it is mixed with other ingredients to make it useful as a herbicide. It was marketed as safe as salt and rose to become about half of Monsanto's annual revenue. Monsanto was subsequently bought by Bayer. Studies done by Monsanto were used to assess its safety.

Since then, tests have been developed that assess for the presence of glyphosate in humans, water, plants and animals. No safe level of glyphosate has been established, but it has been found at some level in many parts of the world, and in many natural materials. It has been found in honey, grains, other crops, inside houses in upstate New York, and Rachael Ray's "natural" dog food.

There seem to be many different opinions about its effect on humans. The EPA and the European Food Safety Authority say it is "probably not carcinogenic" whereas California says it is. An agency that is part of the World Health Organization says there is a "possible link between glyphosate and cancerous tumors." This agency does not use studies done by private companies.



Glyphosate has been banned in Malta, the Netherlands, Argentina and Bermuda.

Other than cancer, glyphosate is known to cause skin irritations, burns to the mouth and throat if ingested, and changes in human DNA. There is some evidence it can cause non-Hodgkin lymphoma and melanoma. Some reports say it affects nerves and brain tissue.

The last review by the EPA was in 1989 when it decided that there was inadequate information to assess its potential to cause harm. Carey Gillam, author of a book about glyphosate, says that corporations convince regulators that the risks of various products are worth the rewards gained by their use.

The Sierra Club is of the opinion that wildlife, specifically bees, are harmed by the residuals of glyphosates in plants. Biologists at the University of Texas carefully studied the response of bees to this chemical and discovered that it affects their intestinal biome and many bees died when exposed to it.

It was difficult to come to any conclusions by doing on-line research on this topic. The volume of material is overwhelming and the range of opinions is huge. The spate of upcoming legal challenges may be helpful in clarifying the issue. The most worrisome fact to me is that it is omnipresent and is not naturally occurring.

Information was taken from Wikipedia, an interview with author Carey Gillam, and the websites of BodyHealth, Product Safety News, EPA, Health and Medicine, Cereal Eats, Sustainable Pulse, Detox Project and the Sierra Club.

IWLA Breckenridge Chapter

Holiday Party

Sunday, January 20, 2019

\$15 suggested donation

Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund

4 p.m. – Social Hour

Silent Auction

Hors d'oeuvres

5 p.m. – Dinner

This year the dinner will be catered by

Carol Knutson - Spectacular Catering

Bring desserts to share!

6 p.m. – Program

Melonie Shipman

It's a Sled Dog's Life

Please RSVP to
Barbara Franklin (breckcal@yahoo.com)
or 763-657-1907

Everyone Welcome!

**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
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**

Feb 26 -

Mar 26 -

