



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League

January 2018
www.breckenridgeikes.org



January 2018

- 09 Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 21 Holiday Party 4:00
Naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer Stan Tekiela

February

- 13 Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30
Denis R. Hahn, Associate Superintendent of Outdoor Education and Facility Services
Three Rivers Park District

March

- 13 Board Of Directors Meeting 7:00
- 27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30

Stan Tekiela's talk at
the Holiday Party

Deer, Elk and Moose: Grand and
Majestic Creatures



Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting minutes Dec 12, 2017

A quorum of board members were present: Steve, Karen, Jim, Tim, John, Wes, & Joe attended.

Meeting 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 man's sharing in it.*

Marlys reviewed December Timberlines color cover for our display case.

A discussion was had planning details for Winter Party. Marlys will take reservations. Joe will contact caterers to see if we can get a better price (tax free).

Joe presented our offer to Brooklyn Park to use our facility for a community meeting.

Memorial service on Dec 15 for Erika Sitz was announced by Jim.

Jim discussed who will plow for us. No contract made yet but a couple good leads are being pursued.

Joe volunteered to fix coffee brewer cord.

Joe said Brad won't be able to get to the tuck pointing in the basement cracks anytime soon so he will work on it.

Decision was made to ask the Browns for their preference on whether to modify the oak coffee table with castors or find it a new home as it is too heavy for renters to move as it is.

Tim presented rental report, all weekends in December have been rented.

John presented the Treasurer's report noting that the sign lighting at our entrance has been totally paid for out of donations. The insurance settlement for hail damage is in the bank awaiting the work to be done next spring.

Jim updated board on scholarship fund.





JWLA Breckenridge Chapter



Sunday, January 21, 2018

\$15 suggested donation

Proceeds go to the Breckenridge Chapter's Scholarship Fund

4 p.m. – Social Hour

Silent Auction (please bring auction items by 4 p.m.)

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

Stan Tekiela

Deer, Elk and Moose: Grand and Majestic Creatures

Please RSVP to

Marlys Steiskal dmsteiskal@msn.com

763-566-1370

Everyone Welcome!



Scholarship Program Enters 20th Year



**Environmental
Education**

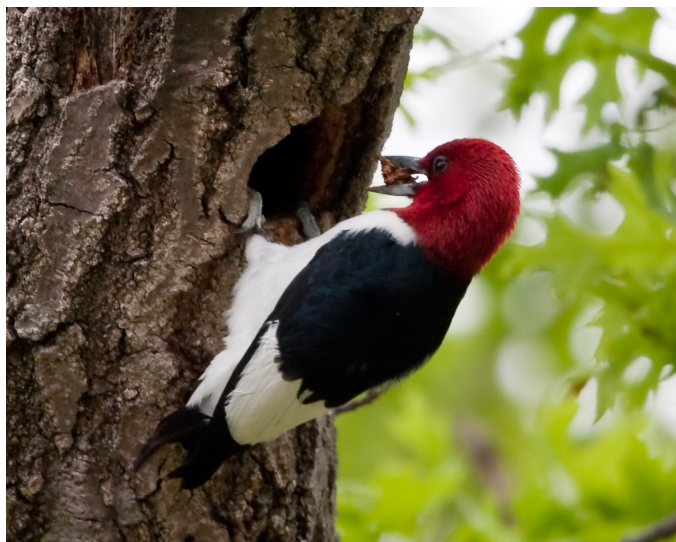
The Breckenridge Chapter will soon send scholarship application materials to local schools and post the 2018-19 application on our web site. This will be the 20th year our chapter has made available \$500 scholarships to high school seniors and/or current college undergraduates. Thus far eighty scholarships totaling \$40,000 have been awarded to local students with a strong interest in, and a commitment to, environmental causes.

Last month the Chapter received large donations to the Chapter's Scholarship Endowment Fund from Tom and Marilyn Breckenridge, John Breckenridge and Larry Swanson. As treasurer, John initiated the scholarship program and the endowment program that funds it. It was a contribution from the estate of Larry's mother, Irene, that started the scholarship endowment. The Breckenridge family and others soon followed with other generous contributions. The generosity of the members listed above has helped the endowment to continue growing. It should be mentioned that John, now living in Switzerland, and Larry who lives in Salt Lake City, have continued their interest in the Breckenridge Chapter, the scholarship program and their old neighborhood. We thank them for their continued involvement from a distance!

Other members of the Chapter help the endowment grow through silent auction involvement as well as monetary contributions. If you would like more information about the Chapter's scholarship program, or would like to learn how you can make a contribution to the endowment, please contact one of the scholarship committee members: Jim Arnold, Judy Arnold, Melissa Sonnenberg or Charlie Taflin.

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program

Red-headed woodpecker populations in Minnesota and elsewhere have been in steep decline for many years so it is great that concerned citizens such as one of our own Ikes, Gene Merriam, is involved in the recovery program for this beautiful bird.



Gene presented a review of the work that is going on to help keep the Redhead off the endangered species list. He has been working with a team including Siah St. Clair, Jerry Bahls, Jim Howitz and Keith Olstad to research the Redhead's breeding success.

Many novice bird watchers are confused by the name Red-headed Woodpecker because so many woodpeckers have some red on their heads. But the Redhead is the only one whose entire head is red.

In the past, bounties were paid for Redheads as they were considered major agricultural pests. How abundant the birds were in early colonial America is shown by one example where over 100 were shot from one cherry tree in a single day. Later they were destroyed because of the damage they caused to utility poles. In 1897, an employee of The Kansas City [Missouri] Electric Car Co. shot 19 Red-headed Woodpeckers off a utility pole in a single day.

Oak-savanna, a lightly forested grassland where oaks are the dominant trees, is their prime habitat and that biome has largely disappeared due to intensification of agriculture and clear cutting of forests. Removal of suitable nesting snags in urban areas and competition for nesting sites with non-native starlings are thought also to be contributing to their decline.

Redheads have many distinctions separating them from other woodpeckers. They are the best fly-catchers of any woodpecker. They are more omnivorous than any other woodpecker. They are one of the few woodpecker species that commonly store food, and the only woodpecker known to cover stored food with pieces of wood or bark. Some years Redheads will migrate from their breeding areas in early fall and others they will overwinter. In this respect they are responsive to acorn mast years.

These traits are connected to the open habitat they require. Unlike many woodpeckers, they commonly feed on the ground so a dense understory is not suitable. In fact, managing the understory preferentially for grasses is being done just north of us at the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve by grazing bison during the growing season. There were recently around 50 breeding pairs there.

Gene explained how the nests and birds are being monitored in the area. Little port holes are being made in the hollow trees before the birds return in May so the nestlings can be easily extracted. Adults and nestlings are fitted with geolocator backpacks to track their whereabouts. Interestingly, trapping the adult birds for banding and backpack fitting was extremely easy in the early summer using peanut baited traps but recovery of the birds later in the season proved impossible with this method as they had lost all interest in peanuts by that time. Mist nests were then used as an alternative method.

If you are interested in helping conserve the Red-headed Woodpecker you might consider joining the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis' Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program and read their quarterly publication [The Redhead](#) on line. Also, Don't forget to save that snag on your property.

Reported by Tim Johnson



OPINION ARTICLE THE MONARCH OF THE NORTHWEST

In 1939 my parents gave me a book for Christmas with the same title as this article. I was 12 years old. It was an exciting story about the hunt for a great rouge moose of fame.

Today in Minnesota we don't hunt the moose anymore because of its dwindling population, mostly; because humans have altered the ecosystem in many ways: deforestation, agriculture, global warming, settlement, eco-tourism and roads, etc.

And in spite of all of this, the White Tail Deer is an animal that can take advantage of these situations. Moose have been able to withstand predators for ages, but as deer moved into their boreal habitat due to the above reasons; this has been the main chaos for the moose due to the Brain Worm that deer carry, which is transferred to the moose through browsing. For over 10 years scientists have known this to be one of the main causes of moose decline.

I was an avid hunter of deer from 1947 until about 2013. Some years we fed deer with bales of hay hung from trees. Sometimes we cut down a few Aspen or Ash trees for extra browse for benefit of deer. Then in 1997 we decided to try bringing back the old type forest that was originally on our 240 acres: White Pine, Red Pine, Jack Pine, Tamarack and White Cedar. We planted close to 1,500 seedlings here and there in open spaces for a period of 10 years. Depredation by deer was exasperating! After a few years of traumatic losses we sprayed for several years with poor results. Then we tried bud capping, which helped some but was only about 75% successful. We finally installed over 150 cages 5' and 6' tall which is about 95% successful. So, I have labeled White Tail Deer as "Timber Goats" because they depredate much other natural food for other species, as well as conifers. I believe the deer population needs to be reduced in all of our natural forests. Now to save the moose. In the area of NE Minnesota where moose still exist there needs to be a vast reduction of deer. Perhaps there should be no bag limit, or perhaps an open season year-round. Environmental Conservationists interested in preserving our natural heritage of native diversity must convince through politics and other means that life is not all about deer proliferation in order to facilitate the hunt. There may in the future be other means to save the moose, but until then reducing the deer population in moose conservation areas seems practical.

Dick Brown



The Silent Auction Raises Scholarship Funds

The silent auction has become an important fundraiser for our Chapter's scholarship fund. During the last five years we have raised \$700 to \$2,000 for our scholarship program. At this year's holiday party, January 21, we will again have many unique items donated by our members as well as a number of products, services and gift certificates donated by local merchants. Be sure to arrive early to get a good look at all the items.

Bidding will start at 4:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm.



If you would like to donate an item, or if you know of a nearby business that would be willing to make a donation, contact Jim or Judy Arnold (763 560 8972 or jjarnold@q.com). Items can be brought to the Chapter House on Saturday morning the 20th during set up or by 4:00 pm on January 21st.



Is There a Universal Solution?

A couple of years ago I was reviewing the progress that was being made in many environmental issues. It seemed that as hard as I worked to solve the problems, no real progress was ever being made. Sure here and there good things happened, then a new related issue would arise and we would be worse off than we were. I heard a few years ago that each generation is more tolerant of changes that occur and thus adverse changes slowly occur, regardless of our efforts. Because I'm over-the-hill, I decided to let the next generation fight these battles; I'll just enjoy what we still have.

Then last summer at a joint meeting of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League, I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Karen Shragg's talk on overpopulation. While I have been a member of World Population Balance for many years and believe in their efforts, I thought that it was too controversial to have a real impact upon issues. After all, everyone loves babies! However, Karen's presentation enlightened me to the possibility of a universal solution to most of the problems that exist in the world. The continuing expanding human population keeps putting pressure on the Earth's resources. Therefore, I have decided to write a series of articles for the "*Kingfisher*" to discuss varying aspects of the overpopulation question to bring this issue more visibility. This is the first of the series.

The first thing, I highly recommend you read Karen's book "Moving Upstream". I will be using her book as an outline for my series by selecting topics raised in the book and expanding on them to help you understand where the problems and their solutions, or in many cases a lack of solution, are. Karen recommends that we move the solutions "upstream". Here is an example of what is meant by "upstream". A problem exists where there are many car tires dumped along the highways. The "downstream" solution is to pick up the tires and recycle them. An "upstream" solution would be to require a deposit on the tires which can be redeemed when the tires are turned in to tire recycling centers. An even further "upstream" solution would be to invent a tire that never needs to be changed, eliminating the disposable tire. Human overpopulation which is the cause of most of our environmental problems would move the solution "upstream" by reducing the population thus reducing the demand for energy, food and consumer items.

The simple solution to human overpopulation would be to require all humans to be temporarily sterilized and in order to have a child a couple would need to be "authorized" to have it. However this is very draconian and goes against everything that most of the world population would tolerate. A less drastic solution would be the one China has implemented and may be working to some extent - "the one child family" - although there is much opposition to it around the world and needs a very controlling government to implement. In the "developed" world what seems to be working to a certain extent is the voluntary concept of voluntarily limiting the number of children to two/family. However, this may result in too slow of a reduction to solve the problem and requires the whole world to practice. In the "undeveloped" world educating women and their mates has had a dramatic effect in reducing the number of births, but still needs more compliance to even achieve the two children per female which may be the best way to define the population problem. I'll be addressing the male role in this in my later series.

I will be addressing the human overpopulation from many angles and will provide many controversial issues that are related to the problem. To wrap up this article, I'll state unequivocally that unless the world addresses human overpopulation, Mother Nature will do it for us in the form of an overheated planet or a devastating plague that will reduce the population by half within a few years, not a pleasant prospect. The other scenario will be a breakdown of political systems resulting in devastating world wars, resulting in a scenario as depicted in the "Mad Max" series.

Jerry Bahls—Guest Columnist



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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.”

February on we need folks to sign up for treats. If you can help, please contact
Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907
Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

February 27 -
March 27 -
April 24 -
May 22 -



Winter Party January 21, 2018

\$15.00 suggested donation
4 p.m. Social Hour plus silent auction
5 p.m. Dinner
6 p.m. Program Stan Tekiela
presentation entitled Deer, Elk and
Moose: Grand and Majestic Creatures

PLEASE RSVP TO
Marlys Steiskal
dmsteiskal@msn.com or
763-566-1370

