



TIMBERLINES

**W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
February 2021**

www.breckenridgeikes.org



Scholarship Recipients Manage the Pandemic

Like most of the world our Breckenridge scholars have worked around the many inconveniences of the pandemic. Due to the COVID19 virus campus activities were limited. Fortunately all are staying healthy!

Mary Thelen is finishing her senior year at St. Thomas and will graduate this spring with degrees in Environmental Science and Spanish. This semester she will be finishing work on her project about human-induced stressors on walleye populations.

Willa Nagel, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, was forced to do most of her class work virtually. Some of her most positive experience were a part time job working with friends at the farm campus at the U of M. She hopes to have more opportunities to interact with fellow students in classroom settings this semester.

Gabriel Drayton, a freshman at Northwestern, spent his first semester working virtually from home. He is now on campus at Evanston and looking forward to a more realistic college experience.

Sierra Hinkel, a freshman at UW-Stevens Point, had most of her fall classwork online but did have a natural resource in person class experience where students had some outdoor experiences.

David Hainlen graduated early from North Dakota State and will hopefully soon be accepted to graduate school in British Columbia. We received a graduation announcement and this note from David Hainlen, one of our Scholarship students since 2017-18.

Dear members of the Breckenridge Chapter of the IWLA,

I just wanted to take a moment to write to you to thank you for your support of me these past 3 and a half years! I graduated on December 18, 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in



Biological Sciences. Your support helped me to reach this milestone in my life and for that, I am grateful. As far as what is next, I have applied to graduate school at the University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George, BC, where I will be working on Bog Orchid Hybrids. I have not decided whether or not I will begin that program in May or September. Once again, thank you so much for your support these past 3½ years!

*Sincerely,
David Hainlen*

This is a wonderful group of young people who are very dedicated to the environment. Hopefully we'll be able to meet them in person at the Chapter House before too long.

Minutes - Breckenridge Chapter IWLA BOD meeting January 13, 2021

Zoom meeting

Members present: Steve Schaust, Tim Johnson, Barb Franklin, Dick Brown, Wendy Steele, Jerry Steele, Karen Ostenso, Jim Arnold, Joe Klohs and Dennis Leslie.

A Resolution was approved by Dick who will forward it to the MN State Division regarding opposition to wildlife killing contests. (See p. 3)

In person meetings are still curtailed due to COVID19. The May Pancake breakfast fundraiser is in doubt. Barb is emailing out Zoom meeting notices for the programs sponsored by other chapters or the Minnesota Ikes Division. Topics have been very interesting and attendance good. When in-person meetings start up again, speakers on deck will be Darby and Geri Nelson.

Complimentary membership issued to Mike and Patty Maher

Retention of documents Discussion about how long to keep documents, Karen is sorting at Chapter House. Joe volunteered to check into details about safe deposit box.

Membership list was divided up and Board members will call individuals to check in and give updates about what has been going on during the past months and our future plans. Rentals at the Chapter House is still limited to two households – rentals have been minimal.

Jim Arnold presented treasurer's report. Our chapter is still fiscally okay. A few donations have been received; the scholarship endowment is doing well. Scholarships will be starting up soon; high schools will be contacted soon.

Our Facebook page (Walter J Breckenridge Chapter) has links to some really good articles about local conservationists from reliable sources; highly recommended

Attention members: Drive to the Chapter House whenever you get a chance to help pack down snow. Take a look at the beautiful grounds. The snow on the trees and in the yard along the river is so peaceful during the wintertime. Enjoy nature!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

***The Saint Paul Audubon Society
invites you to the February
presentation in our 2021 Speaker
Series:***

February 11: “Hidden Gems of the North Shore,” featuring photographer and naturalist Phil Hartley

Minnesota Master Naturalist Phil Hartley will use photos to show us 20 or so locations along the North Shore that are not actually hidden, but better known and used by locals than tourists. These locations, running from Duluth to Silver Bay, are great spots for nature lovers and bird watchers and are generally just enough off the beaten path that “social distancing” is rarely an issue. Phil’s presentation will use photos to highlight how you know you are there and then some of the most interesting features and birding opportunities of each location.

Download the PDF handout

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E5eH5apbE_jT1CJwxXD_3d3ynlwZKxRO?usp=sharing to follow the presentation site by site, including information on why the location is included, where it is, and when is the best time to visit.

Topic: Monthly Speaker Series | 02/2021
Time: Feb 11, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93114910377?pwd=WEVjRVZML0dJR09oYUNCd2Fha3MzQT09>

Meeting ID: 931 1491 0377
Passcode: YcR0IAUN_m



Wildlife Killing Contests in Minnesota

Izaak Walton League of America

Monday February 15th-6:00pm (CT)

Presenters – Steve Pope & Christine Coughlin

Click on Link at 6:00 pm (CT) to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89363872224>

Meeting ID: 893 6387 2224

Dial In: 312-626-6799



The presentation will focus on what wildlife killing contests are; what they aren't; and what problems they present in Minnesota for our ecology, stewardship of wildlife, and ethical conservation.

Steve Pope is an attorney based out of St. Paul who is a volunteer member with the Humane Society of the United States - Minnesota State Council. In his position as a council member, Steve spent the last two years helping track wildlife killing contests in Minnesota and meeting with stakeholders that range from city council members to DNR officials. Among other activities, Steve spends his free time observing carnivores in their natural habitats, whether it be coyotes and foxes in St. Paul or wolves and grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park.

Christine Coughlin is Minnesota State Director for the Humane Society of the United States

Izaak Walton League of America – Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

Ikes Support Ban on Lead Ammo and Fishing Tackle



Our State Division of the Izaak Walton League supports the petition of Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) asking the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt rules requiring non-toxic fishing tackle and ammunition in Minnesota state parks and Scientific and Natural Areas. Two members of our Chapter, Tim Johnson and Larry Kennebeck, sit on the Board of Directors of FMSNA which is also lobbying for action in the Minnesota Legislature this year.

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) writes that science has long understood that there is no safe level of exposure to lead, for humans or other animals. Exposure in any amount can have serious and irreversible repercussions on brain development and lead poisoning is associated with a wide range of impacts to human organ systems.

Lead has been prohibited in paint since 1978, water pipes since 1986, and gasoline since 1996. Yet lead fishing tackle and ammunition continue to be produced and used across Minnesota, tainting meat supplies and killing wildlife. An article in the New York Times in 2018 stated, "... between 10 million and 20 million animals, including eagles, hawks, bears, vultures, ravens, and coyotes, die each year not from being hunted, but from lead poisoning."

To focus on just one species as an example, the DNR estimates that 40% of Minnesota trumpeter swan deaths are from lead poisoning. In one

instance in March 2019, 10 trumpeter swans died at Sucker Lake in Vadnais Heights from lead.

Equivalent lead-free substitutes for fishing tackle and ammunition are available. It is long past time to stop allowing the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle in our environment.

A rule prohibiting the use of these toxic instruments on these state lands is not sufficient to address the problem, but is among the smallest of steps that the DNR should take as quickly as possible to minimize the harm from lead that accumulates to the people and environment of Minnesota each day.

The Minnesota House of Representatives, controlled by a DFL party which has approved an action agenda of "support for banning the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead or other toxic materials", is being asked by FMSNA to introduce a bill similar to the California law which banned toxic lead ammo. We are suggesting the draft bill we submitted be named the **Healthy and Ethical Hunting and Fishing Act**.

In the Minnesota Senate, banning lead ammo has been a non-starter due to the Republican majority's beholden position to the National Rifle Association (NRA). The NRA wrongly conflates use of lead ammo with the Second Amendment right to bear arms. Despite the NRA's recent declaration of bankruptcy and illegal diversion of funds to leader's personal use, they hold sway over our Republican legislators. We are, however, supportive of even the baby step being proposed by Sen. Carrie Ruud (R) in S.F. 19 to eliminate the sales tax on non-toxic ammunition, which would give non-toxic ammo a little more competitive advantage.

We ask all our members to make known to their legislators their desire to remove lead from the environment through either rules or law.

Reported by Tim Johnson

Prove-It-First

Our MN State Division has sent the following letter to appropriate legislators regarding non-ferrous mining in the BWCAW watershed.



MINNESOTA DIVISION IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PO Box 385403, Bloomington, MN 55438-2408

(651)221-0215~ikes@minnesotaiques.org

minnesotaiques.org~[facebook.com/minnesotaiques](https://www.facebook.com/minnesotaiques)~twitter.com/ikesofmn

Dear Senator / Representative,

Toxic Waters. That is what could happen to Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness if Twin Metals mine were built. Undrinkable. Unfishable. Unswimmable. That is why the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America supports Prove-It-First legislation for non-ferrous sulfide ore mining - see HF-148 and SF-59. Minnesota citizens and taxpayers do not want to be stuck with a cleanup bill for hundreds of millions of dollars or billions over many decades. Eventually the mine or tailings will leak. If you have any doubt, do an internet search for Mount Polley Canadian mining disaster which has cleanup costs over \$200 million and possibly reaching \$500 million. Search for Montana's Berkeley Pit - Silver Bow Creek superfund site, with \$1 billion having been spent to stabilize mine tailings and additional costs expected to be over \$100 million. Consider the Gold King Mine disaster which leaked into Colorado's Animas river. It had cleanup costs of \$30 million and damages filed against the EPA by the Navajo Nation and the states of Utah and New Mexico, exceeding \$1 billion.

Acid mine drainage into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park will affect Minnesota's fishing and tourism industry whose economic impact on the state generates over a billion dollars in revenue annually.

Beyond multimillion dollar cleanup costs and negative economic impacts, acid mine drainage into Voyageurs National Park and the BWCAW could take away something priceless to us all. The ability to fish, swim, and recreate in pristine nature. The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America urges you to support Prove-It-First. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

John Rust
President of the Minnesota Division
Izaak Walton League of America

**Interested in wildlife and the outdoors?
Please Join Us!
IWLA Breckenridge Chapter Membership Application:**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues are subject to change. Please make check payable to: IWLA, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter Membership

Dues: Individual: 71.50 Family: 99.00 Student: 43.00

Mail to:

Mary Ellen Vetter

7715 York Lane N

Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Phone: 763-561-1761

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

Letters sent to the StarTribune by Dick Brown

Opinion: Trumpeter Swan Hunting Season

Our family owns 240 acres, ¼ mile South of Itasca Park, protected by the MN. Land Trust. There are 5 potholes on the property, 2 of them large enough for a Swan family.

As a Duck hunter for over 30 years, nevertheless we avidly protect a family of Swans that have taken residence there for about 6 or 7 years. We never saw Swans in the area until about 10-15 years ago and at that time they were very scarce. Now we see a few in the surrounding area.

I do not feel they should be a game bird because they are very noticeable and would attract gunners from a long distance and may result in over-shooting. These birds wear no camouflage. Besides, they are a most beautiful bird and could, because of their inspiring call be classified as a songbird. I have not heard they do any damage; and so let the King of Waterfowl live in peace!

The general public would be disheartened to hear of the killing of this iconic bird.

Richard P. Brown, Izaak Walton League member

Opinion: Sand Hill Crane Hunting Season

In the late summer-fall of the year occasional flocks of Cranes can be heard at considerable distance. This was not true when I was young. Today my Grand and Great Grand kids can hear their inspiring call as they wing their majestic way southward, talking inspirational foreign voices.

These birds, like Swans, have risen from incredibly low numbers to be common in certain areas. As a former Duck and Pheasant hunter, it never dawned on me to want to shoot these elegant birds that are so majestic in flight and especially while landing. Aldo Leopold paid special tribute to them in his book *A Sand County Almanac*. We do not have to shoot everything! I feel the same; I believe there

should be no hunting season on Sand Hill Cranes! Certainly not on Whoopers!!!

Richard P Brown, Izaak Walton League member

Opinion: Other Concerns:

I am not in favor of the following rules or changes to rules:

1. Early or bonus Teal seasons
2. Motorized decoys
3. Early military or veteran hunt
4. Extending hours to sunset opening season
5. Special youth seasons
6. Trolling motors for waterfowl seasons
7. Open water Duck or Goose hunting
8. Expanding Crane hunting zones; and no Swan seasons

Respectfully,

Richard P. Brown, Izaak Walton League member

Prairie Woods Chapter of IWLA presents: Climate change and protecting our land and waters

Ann Mulholland,
Regional Director
The Nature Conservancy.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
<https://tnc.zoom.us/j/91580342711>
8:30 pm CST
February Chapter meeting
7 pm CST –
Meeting ID: 915 8034 2711
+13126266799



**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.

How to Solve the Global Environmental Crisis

By Lukas Eddy, MSc, RN

Lukas and his wife, Suhei are members with me on the Board of World Population Balance. Lukas is a Public Health Nurse at the Chinle Indian Health Service, and he and his wife live in Arizona. They are both very active, enthusiastic people, anxious to make a difference in our environment. Lucas recently wrote this article, which is one of the best on the environmental effects of overpopulation that I have read.

I highly recommend it!

<https://medium.com/ending-overshoot/how-to-solve-the-global-environmental-crisis-702f988c8d3c>

Published online on January 22 in *Ending Overshoot*

Barbara Franklin

