



TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter
Izaak Walton League
September 2021

www.breckenridgeikes.org



COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 28 No Social/Educational Meeting

OCTOBER 2021

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 No Social/Educational Meeting

NOVEMBER 2021

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- Date Change:**
- 16 Social/Educational Meeting

A Note from the Editor:

Due to the uncertainty of our current situation (and few submissions) we have decided to combine upcoming issues of *Timberlines* and publish every other month for the time being. The November/December issue will come out at the beginning of December with a submission deadline of November 30. Schedule changes for upcoming programs and activities will be posted on our website [www.breckenridgeikes.org] and on Facebook [Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, IWLA]. I will try to keep the website up to date!

Thanks from Darby and Geri

First of all, thank you so much for the warm reception everyone gave us, especially Darby, at the first in person meeting in July. Darby was floating with joy to be among good friends and it was such a privilege to be able to tell about For Love of a River: The Minnesota in person for the first time since COVID started.

Darby is now transitioning to memory care at Champlin Shores. It's going better than I expected, but it will take awhile for him to adjust. Something I think would help him is getting notes from his friends reminding him of his accomplishments and reasons why he is admired and loved. As he recognizes all he is losing he feels worthless sometimes, and affirming notes could focus him on his lasting legacy.

His address is:

Darby Nelson
Champlin Shores #139
119 W Hayden Lake Road
Champlin MN 55316

If members who know Darby could sign up for a week in the next few months, he would get a steady stream of mail. He has a bulletin board to post them and caregivers can use them over and over to refocus him when he's having a hard day.

Thanks a million to anyone who can do this. We so value your friendship! Geri
August 5, 2021

Our Chapter's Buckthorn News

How many individual buckthorn plants do you think are on Banfill Island's nineteen or so acres? It is hard to know, but we can say that there are about 5,000 less of them since the wonderful folks from the National Park Service donated their time and equipment to apply a foliar treatment (triclopyr) to the especially dense patch on the SE side of the island (~2,500 m²). Triclopyr kills broadleaf plants, not grasses, and breaks down in soil with a half-life of between 30 and 90 days. It remains active in decaying vegetation for about 3 months. It has been found to be nontoxic to bees.

We found three mature buckthorn trees in the patch that were undoubtedly the seed source for much of that patch. Those we felled and applied concentrated glyphosate to the stumps. This is the same method of application we have been using for years on our Chapter House property's annual buckthorn campaigns.

This work had been planned for last year but the river was too high then. Because of the extremely low water level this year, the team was able to mix the herbicide



National Park Service intern Alana readying spray tanks for Banfill Island

at the Chapter House and just walk over to the island with the backpacks. The plan is to assess the success of the foliar application next year and mop up the buckthorn we missed with a second application.

As for the rest of the island's buckthorn, the lowest bench, which usually floods annually, has almost none. The second bench and the highest parts of the island above it have scattered low density buckthorn growing. All are less than waist level and all show evidence of deer browse. If we are ever able to reduce the white-tail deer density on the island, perhaps this buckthorn will present a more difficult management problem.



The buckthorn in the patch we treated was this thick before treatment

Back on the mainland, our Cover-It-Up buckthorn citizen science project with the University of Minnesota is just finishing its second year. Preliminary assessment this fall shows that wild turkey have had an impact on the test plots. A flock of them roost on Banfill Island and fly back over to the mainland to feed. The turkey, which are not native in this part of Minnesota, spend a lot of time in our wood lot, scratching the litter and soil while looking for food. The experiment was to see if certain native plants would outcompete the buckthorn for light. But due to the turkeys, the two dozen or so native species planted in the plots have not done well. The experiment will be ongoing.

Some interesting results can be seen inside the deer enclosure fence set up this past Spring. The deer and the turkeys have been kept out but rabbits or squirrels have chewed holes in the bottom so they enter and leave at will. What is most striking to me after this one growing season is that dense wood nettle (deer love the young leaves) is dominating the forest floor. The first-year garlic mustard rosettes covered the ground in April but the wood nettle seems to have shaded them out. Perhaps it will also shade out the buckthorn sprouts. We will see next Spring if natural forest regeneration is restarting. Due to the high deer concentration, there are no oak saplings anywhere else on the property despite the large number of mature oak trees dropping acorns. We have set up some wire cages around a couple oak seedlings the deer missed. Planning is going on

about which other species we should replace the soon to be lost ash trees with.

Out on the island, forest regeneration of cottonwood and silver maple is not being seen. There should be some saplings along the banks and on the flood plain forest floor competing to replace the many beaver girdled trees.

In this unusually dry year, a little over three decades since the last severe drought, the river bed is covered with millions of cottonwood seedlings (new browse for the deer). Native wildflowers are

blooming in the dry river bed as well. Red-whiskered clammy weed on the sand bars, nodding bur-marigold, foxglove, Allegheny monkey flower and dense patches of blue vervain contrast with the green of the cottonwood seedlings. The contrast of the explosion of new flora with the severe loss of aquatic fauna like mussels and crayfish is remarkable. It would be interesting to know how quickly the latter recover from this very dry year. There is so much to learn about nature right here in our neighborhood.

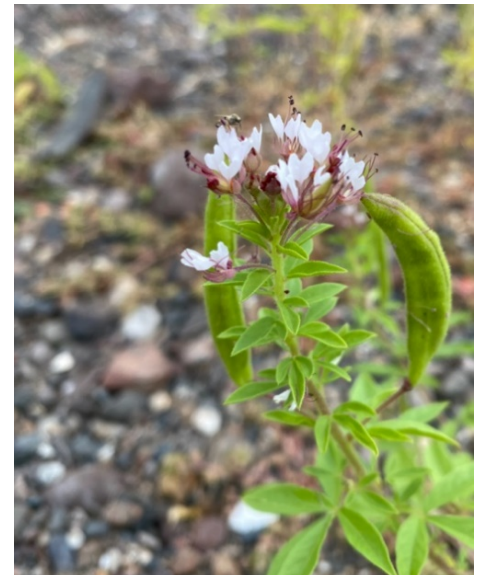
Reported by Tim Johnson



Allegheny Monkey Flower, nothing else like it in Minnesota



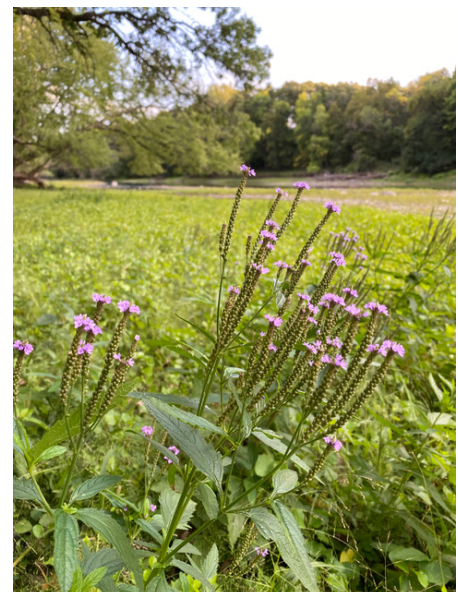
Nodding Bur-Marigold loves damp soils near rivers and lakes



Red-whiskered Clammy Weed is an annual that prefers sand bars



Carpet of cottonwood seedlings as seen from Banfill Island



Blue Vervain on the riverbed (pink variety)

Summary:

Board of Directors Meetings August 10 and September 14

Social/Educational Meetings

In-person meetings will be pushed back due to the surge in COVID cases in the state.

Tyler Winter (Conservation of Rough Fish) originally scheduled for August has again been postponed. Other Minnesota Chapters and the State also have been scheduling Zoom meetings which are open to all. Updates will appear on the website [breckenridgeikes.org] and Facebook.

Committees

Building & Grounds: Cement blocks found in the river bed (abandoned boat anchors for fishing) were used to fill open space and level stairway to river. Additionally, there is a section on the bluff walkway that is only held up by Basswood roots that will need repair.

A motion passed to form a committee to make short and long-term plans to control erosion on the riverbank/shoreline. Committee members: Joe Klohs (Chair), Jim Arnold, Tim Johnson, Jerry Steele, others if interested.

A motion passed to block off south stairway to river due to further riverbank erosion.

Membership

With loss of Mary Ellen Vetter as our Membership Chair dues mailings will be processed by Karen Ostenso with Barb's assistance in the Fall. A separate committee for membership recruitment was formed.

Memorial Bench Committee was formed: Jim Arnold (Chair) Jerry Steele, Dick Brown, Barb Franklin.

Rental: Some upcoming rentals have been cancelled due to Covid but holiday rentals are looking good through the end of the year.

Scholarship: Jim Arnold reported that the scholarships will be awarded in the Fall only, vs. both Fall and Spring as previously done.

John Rust is leading the effort to preserve the old growth bur oak grove south of 109th Ave along Jefferson Highway in Brooklyn Park. He will call on us when we're needed.

An antlerless bow hunt is scheduled for Banfill Island this Fall. A motion was passed to obtain further information (counts, complaints, over browsing, car accidents) on the need for culling the local deer herds. When the information is presented, the Board of Directors will vote on whether to suspend the hunt this year. Joe and Larry will lead the information gathering.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion passed to put together a list of Committees, their initiatives and action items, who are on the committees, who is chairing each committee. Committees should give their update each meeting (if anything needs to be reported).

Action item: Karen, Sue and Wendy will be meeting prior to our next board meeting to organize a list.



Basswood tree roots are holding up the observation deck on the south river stairway.

D.N.R. Rules Regarding Mississippi River Corridor

Dick Brown sent the following letter to Champlin City Council members and city engineers on August 5, 2021

Because I may not be able to appear at the August 9th Council meeting on this issue, I respond here: I believe the City Council, Planning Commission and Engineers have worked hard and have come up with reasonable points to convey to the DNR. However, there is one point I, and many others, believe should be amended in the lighting section.

It has been well known for several years within the Environmental Conservation community that night lighting disorients night migrating birds of many species to their detriment. There are many other human endeavors that have been decimating birds in the last 75 years, but this is one problem that could be at least partially alleviated if every municipality followed suit. Champlin could be one of the first!

Lighting in the Ordinary High Water Level set back:

b. Should be changed to read: “Up lighting and flag lighting is prohibited, except flag lighting is permissible on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Motion censored lighting is allowed.

*Note It is especially important that lighting that shines upward or downward (if it reflects off the water) be prohibited during migrating season between March 15th to May 31st and again August 15th to October 31st.

This is one-way cities can help reverse the problem of diminishing numbers of birds that can safely migrate at night in the Mississippi flyway. Night lighting has become one of the serious problems for many species of night migrating birds.

Sincerely,
Dick Brown

Opinion: Comments on WOTUS (Waters of The United States)

There are no good reasons to not fully protect intermittent streams and wetlands. Almost every intermittent stream enters a body of water that continues to another. A few empty into a wetland with no outlet in which case their water provides wildlife habitat and/or helps re-charge underground aquifers. Water that lays in a pond or marsh, whether clean or stagnant, evaporates into the atmosphere and comes down on the land in a different place.

Some streams which are not considered intermittent sometimes actually are. Example: Minnehaha Creek (of great literary fame) in Hennepin County runs from Lake Minnetonka through the cities of Edina and Minneapolis into the Mississippi River. One year in the 1980's and again in 2021 it has become bone dry. Is it then considered an intermittent stream?

Oxbow Creek in Hennepin County, City of Champlin is an intermittent stream, but in 1998 & 1999 ran continuously all year even in the winter and runs directly into the Mississippi River.

Every stream, intermittent or not, runs to some place that is important, even farmer's drainage ditches. In Minnesota, we have rules for buffer strips along streams and ditches. They are a needed improvement but wholly inadequate as most runoff from fields and drainage goes under the buffers through culverts and directly into a stream or body of water.

It is my opinion that culverts or ditches that run into another should have a settlement pond to collect siltation, nutrients and chemical pollution before entering another stream or body of water. Urban dwellers are asked to do similar with rain gardens and should be required to do so where it could be an advantage. Our modern roadways are required to do that and so should major farming entities.

I have noticed in Northern Minnesota in places where there is no runoff from farm drainage, there are ponds and wetlands that have no excessive weed growth or algae even in hot weather.

Water is an extremely important commodity and resource for humans and wildlife. As our population regrettably continues to grow, we must as a Nation make every effort to protect this precious resource.

The American people must decide whether to give up certain frivolities or to defend woods, water and wildlife and ultimately the people themselves.

Our President, Congress, State Legislators, and Governors need to understand this and act!

Richard P Brown, Issues Chair

A Primer on Prions

*By Karen Ostenso
The Curious Reporter*

In light of all the recent news items about chronic wasting disease (CWD) it seems wise to review what is reliably known about the underlying mechanisms causing it—prions. They are normal proteins present in the central and peripheral nervous systems, including those of humans. Their normal function is somewhat unclear, although several possibilities have been posited.

Quite a lot is known about what they do when they are abnormal. Their abnormality is commonly labelled a “misfolding.” The misfolded prion can convert normal prions, but I found no easily understandable explanation of the cause of the initial misfolding.

However, transmission of the infected prions is fairly well researched and understood. Infected deer shed them in urine, feces and saliva, thereby passing them from one to another by grazing and nose to nose contact. There is some indication that an infected pregnant female can pass it to her unborn fetus. Also, squirrels can eat an infected deer carcass and thereafter shed prions onto the ground and grass and into the water.

The spread is further complicated by how quickly infected prions spread to others. Additionally, once in the environment, they remain there for years. And, if that is not problematic enough, deer can be infected for perhaps 2 years before showing symptoms.

CWD is one of a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Transmission of CWD to a human has been reported. In experimental situations, monkeys and mice have been infected with CWD by eating infected meat.

The many discussions of legislative action regarding CWD and how to manage it must be informed by the basic science.

The majority of what I have included was found in Wikipedia. Some is also from Minnesota Public Radio broadcasts. It would take days to read all that is found on the web about both the research and the management.

I will use a limerick to try to encapsulate a summary:

There is currently lots of unease
About chronic wasting disease.
There is so much to know
About buck and doe:
Let’s think it through carefully, PLEASE!



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
(Leave messages at 763-561-5364)

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.

Woodland Sunflower Photos Thanks to Larry Kennebeck

“Woodland Sunflower is a rather variable species, particularly in leaf shape and degree of hairiness. The few things that can actually help distinguish this from other Minnesota native sunflowers, are: a mostly smooth stem that may have a whitish bloom, leaf stalks usually at least ½ inch long, and bracts that do not much exceed the width of the flower disk. Woodland Sunflower hybridizes with both Hairy Sunflower and Jerusalem Artichoke which makes an ID even more challenging”. – *Minnesota Wildflowers: A Field Guide to the Flora of Minnesota*

