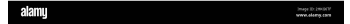




# TIMBERLINES

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League  
May 2026

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



## Coming Events May 2026

- 3 Pancake Breakfast 8 am-1 pm  
(Sorry if you missed it!)
- 12 Board of Directors meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
“Cranes over Minnesota”  
(International Crane Foundation)

## June 2026

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 23 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
**Bruce Anderson, DNR**  
**The Loss of Wildlands in the Lower 48  
and Minnesota Since European  
Settlement**

## July 2026

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Social Educational Meeting 7:30 pm  
**David Larson**  
**Trapping on Public Lands**

## Social Educational Meeting: Tuesday, May 26 7:30 pm “Cranes over Minnesota” (International Crane Foundation)

Plan to attend our May meeting, Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 PM, to hear a presentation titled “Cranes over Minnesota” by Alicia Ward, the International Crane Foundation's Outreach Biologist and Graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Light refreshments with social time to follow presentation.





STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota's lakes and rivers are home to 26 species of native rough fish, including buffalo, redbhorse, bowfin, gar, and mooney; and
WHEREAS: Native fish species sustained the people of this land for thousands of years as an important food source and remain an irreplicable element of Minnesota's cultural and natural heritage for all who were raised and settled here; and
WHEREAS: These same species are an integral part of maintaining the healthy lakes and rivers Minnesotans cherish; and
WHEREAS: Despite their importance to the people, lands, and waters of Minnesota, many have been unprotected species for 100 years, undermining their status as part of Minnesota's rich natural heritage and denying them the benefits of scientific management; and
WHEREAS: Minnesota leads the nation in native rough fish conservation because of contributions by scientists, students, conservationists, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; and
WHEREAS: Minnesota passed the first comprehensive native fish conservation bill in U.S. history, legally separating native and invasive fish by amending state statutes and creating protections for "native rough fish" to ensure the conservation of these important fish for future generations; and
WHEREAS: Conservationists from Native Fish for Tomorrow, the Minnesota Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League of Minnesota, the Nature Conservancy, and scientists from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are collaborating to educate Minnesotans on the value of native rough fish; and
WHEREAS: All people in Minnesota are invited to learn more about the work of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and to join in conservation efforts for native rough fish.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim May 8, 2026, as:

NATIVE FISH DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 27th day of April.



Signature of Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Signature of Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

# Native Fish Day Proclaimed on Eve of Governor's Fishing Opener

Tim Johnson, Breckenridge Chapter Conservation Issues Chair, represented the Ikes on the eve of the Governor's Fishing Opener in Stillwater, MN where the Native Fish Day proclamation was made.

L to R: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, Fisheries Chief Brad Parsons, Governor Tim Walz, Rough Fish dot Com founder Corey Geving, Native Fish for Tomorrow, and Breckenridge Chapter member Tyler Winter, UofM Asst Prof. Fisheries Solomon David, Assoc. Director of Water for The Nature Conservancy Steve Herrington, Native Fish for Tomorrow Tony Schollmeier, Tim



Tim shakes Governor's hand on Native Fish Day



# Pancake Breakfast May 3, 2026

With a spectacular day for the Pancake Breakfast and despite a lower than expected attendance we still made over \$450 in profit.

Great work everyone. I appreciate all the people that showed up and volunteered to work.  
Thank you. Steve

*Photos thanks to Diane Sannes and Tim Johnson*



# The Amazing Minnesota Biological Survey



Chapter members were very pleased to hear a presentation by Bruce Carlson, Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) supervisor, for our 4th Tuesday education/social meeting in April. As conservation activists, there can hardly be a more important resource for us than the MBS. Its history was summarized by Bruce, and a short version of their history and what they are doing now is online at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/mbs/outcomes/index.html>

The baseline survey of every county in our state has been completed but the work of MBS is not done. Their strategic plan can be found on their website.

Their website also explains “In addition to gathering statewide baseline biological information, MBS conducts conservation research, monitoring, and specialized survey projects across Minnesota.

- The Minnesota Ecological Monitoring Network was established by MBS in 2017 to track ecological change throughout the state.
- native bees to broaden understanding of pollinator decline.
- Intensive surveys for rare, rapidly declining prairie butterflies.
- Long-term vegetation plot monitoring to assess effectiveness of grassland conservation grazing.

- Radio-tracking of selected reptile species to identify overwintering sites, nesting sites, and foraging ranges.
- Monitoring sites of high conservation value to meet requirements for DNR's sustainable forestry certification.
- Monitoring of small white lady's-slipper in Minnesota, home to the world's largest concentration of the species.
- Annual monitoring of federally endangered plant species, including dwarf trout lily, western prairie fringed orchid, and prairie bush clover.
- Resampling of historic vegetation monitoring plots in Minnesota's peatlands to assess influence of climate change.

MBS delivers data and information to a wide array of users, from resource managers to conservation organizations seeking to learn about and enjoy the natural world around them.

- Data and guidance for management and conservation of parks and preserves such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, State Parks, and Nature Conservancy preserves.
- Comprehensive books on habitats of portions of the state.
- Field guides to Minnesota's native plant communities.
- Technical expertise for sustainable management of forests, prairies, and wetlands.
- Guidance to Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan.
- Major contributions to the DNR's web-based Rare Species Guide.
- Plant and animal specimens submitted to museum collections.
- Data on rare species and native plant communities are provided for every environmental review assessment done by the DNR.”

*Reported by Tim Johnson*

# Bringing Our Work Together: Join Us at the 2026 IWLA National Convention

Across the country, Izaak Walton League chapters are doing important work—restoring habitat, protecting water, engaging youth, and building community.



This year's National Convention is a chance to bring that work together.

The convention will feature:

- An **Innovation Fair** showcasing projects from chapters across the country
- A **national art show** highlighting our relationship with land, water, and community

- A **Youth Convention and Green Crew Summit** focused on developing the next generation of leaders
- Opportunities to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another

We're encouraging members of our chapter to attend—and to help represent the work we're doing locally.

Volunteers will be needed to tend to tables, selling t-shirts, etc. July 15 – 19th. Sign ups are going on right now and encouraging us and our members to volunteer.

If you're interested in serving as a delegate/alternate, you can receive **free registration** by contacting our Breckenridge Chapter President Steve Schaut

<https://iwla-getitdone.org/registration/>

Home Registration Get It Done Venue Youth Store Resources Explore Speakers

**GET IT DONE**  
Turning Passion into Action

Register Today for the 2026 National Convention in  
Bloomington, Minnesota.

**JULY 16-18, 2026**

Join us as we celebrate conservation leaders, members and volunteers! This 2-day convention is guaranteed to inspire and delight by offering enriching opportunities for engagement, learning and action. PLUS—Come early and take advantage of family-focused activities involving some of Minnesota's favorite outdoor opportunities!

BOOK MY ROOM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Hi! How can we help?

I have a question

Tell me more

## Population and the Hormuz Strait

There is much said in the news lately about the shortage of commercial fertilizers due to “constraints” in the Strait of Hormuz by Iranian forces. I can remember a time when that probably would not have been a problem in this country.

Although I was quite young (11-19) I had quite a series of experiences for a city kid on 2 farms (1938-1945). I had stayed a week at both farms and spent many a weekend on each, especially the farm in NW Anoka Co. on the Rum River.

As I remember the farmer in Bloomington on the shore of Bush Lake, I don't believe they used commercial fertilizer, and the 2 row corn planter I drove behind 2 dapple gray horses only planted corn. I remember the farmer, Jim, telling Dad, the corn crop would only bring about 65 bushels per acre, this in about August and a rather dry year. But he said “that ain't too bad on average”.

On the farm in Anoka Co. during a series of those years, we had similar conversations with Jim (both farmers were Jim). The soil in that part of Anoka Co. is quite sandy and so the drouth years hit a little harder there. He anticipated only a 45 bushel per acre yield. (The farmers today expect a yield of over 200 bushels per acre using copious amounts of commercial fertilizer.) But again, as I helped with a certain number of chores all summers on weekends, I never saw the use of commercial fertilizers. These types of commercial fertilizers did not seem to have common use until sometime after WWII.

Both farms had wagon type fertilizer spreaders and the only fertilizers were from manure: cow, horse, pig and sometimes chicken. (The labor to load the wagon was intense.) Field rotation, growing alfalfa and red clover were common rotation crops that placed nitrogen in the soil.

Although these were fairly drouth and depression years, our American farmers seemed to feed the nation fairly well. I can't help thinking that if our population had stayed at the level it was in the 1940's, the shortage of commercial fertilizers would little affect us. The more population growth, the more we need expensive scientific invention.

Where will it end 50, 100 or 200 years from now? No April Fool!! You're going to tell me 100 years is a long way off? Well, I might make it next April!!

*Dick Brown  
April 2026*

## Scholarship Recipients Selected for 28th Year

After individually reading the applications the scholarship committee gathered May 2 to select students for next year's scholarships. The six recipients are currently being informed and will be invited to the May 26 IWL meeting. Because some of the recipients will likely be away at school it is likely not all will be able to attend the May meeting, but we hope they will be able to attend a later meeting.

The scholarship committee now consists of Melissa Sonnenberg, Mary Ellen Vetter, Karen Ostenso, Mary Thelen, Jim and Judy Arnold. Students are eligible to apply for up to four undergraduate years. Our Chapter has now awarded 130 scholarships. Thanks to a recent generous contribution from Larry Swanson payments to this year's students will increase to \$1,500.



## 2026 Is the Year of Rivers

*John Gibbs is the chair of the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners.*

Link to read this good article:

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_sailor/free/column-2026-is-the-year-of-rivers/article\\_d9d720b7-075c-42c6-8c2f-dcc7d0100790.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_sailor/free/column-2026-is-the-year-of-rivers/article_d9d720b7-075c-42c6-8c2f-dcc7d0100790.html)

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
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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](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)**  
**Deadline is the First 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.



## Local Resident

This barred owl was photographed near the Chapter House. Its mate was nearby during our April board meeting and the two sang the "rather chaotic duetting caterwaul that sounds like maniacal laughter"

<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/271659691>. Barred owls are monogamous and are nesting about now. The female incubates and the male brings her food. They do not migrate in winter. Their chief predator is the great horned owl.